Los Angeles Times

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latimes.com

It's good to finally be King Charles. Perhaps

His coronation is both a bright spot and an annoyance to a nation facing tough times.

By Laura King

LONDON — It's a coronation conundrum: How much is too much, and how much is not enough?

King Charles III's formal anointing as sovereign of the realm, set to unfold Saturday before a VIP-studded audience in London's Westminster Abbey, is intended as a global showcase for what might be Britain's best-known brand: royal pageantry, played to the hilt.

To the actual hilt, in fact: Ceremonial swords will feature in the day's elaborate observances across a monument-strewn swath of the British capital, together with ornate vestments, priceless jewels, heraldic trumpets and troops in scarlet tunics and bearskin hats. There's even a Stone of Destiny, schlepped down from Scotland for the occasion.

But under straitened national circumstances, all the pomp strikes a sour note for some.

The coronation, and the unspecified but very large expenditure surrounding it, comes against a backdrop of galloping inflation, political polarization and widespread disillusionment over Brexit, Britain's departure from the European Union three years ago.

"I don't think Britain is by any means at its happiest

[See **Coronation,** A4]

The crown jewels ready for close-up

What you should know about headgear, scepters, orbs and more at coronation. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Emilio Morenatti Associated Press

BRITISH ARTIST Julian Beaver puts the finishing touches on his portrait of King Charles III on Thursday in London. Charles' coronation arrives amid a backdrop of inflation, political polarization and regret over Brexit.

Ex-UC Davis student held in stabbings that terrorized city

Man, 21, was recently ousted from university for academic reasons

By Jessica Garrison and Brittny Mejia

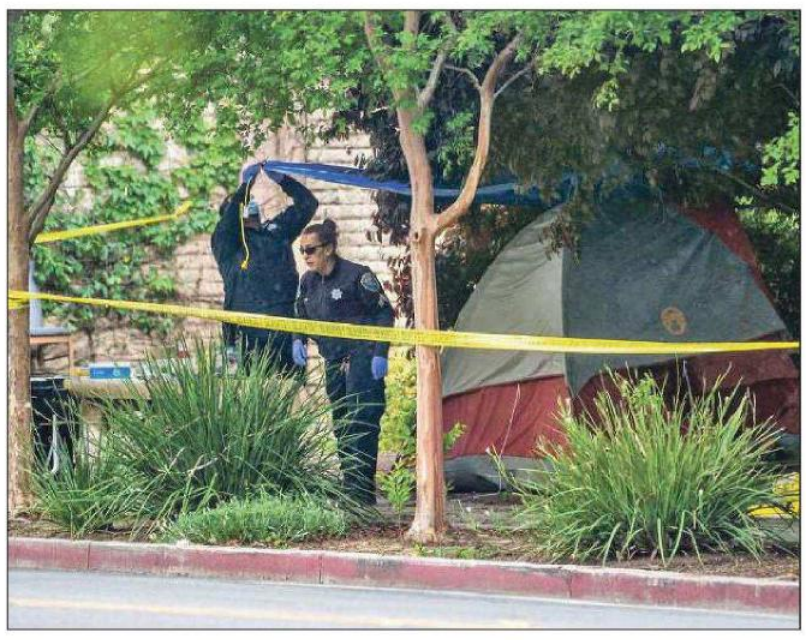
DAVIS, Calif. — Police on Thursday named a young man recently "separated" from UC Davis for academic reasons as the suspect in stabbings that left two men dead and one woman in critical condition in this bucolic college town just west of Sacramento.

Carlos Reales Dominguez, 21, was arrested on suspicion of two counts of homicide and one count of attempted murder, Davis Police Chief Darren Pytel said at an afternoon news conference.

Davis Mayor Will Arnold praised the law enforcement effort.

"It's because of the fine police work that we are here today to announce that the individual believed to be responsible for these horrific, brutal attacks is no longer free to terrorize our community," Arnold said. "A murderer is off the streets, and our

[See **Stabbings,** A12]



Hector Amezcua Sacramento Bee

POLICE investigate Tuesday in Davis, Calif., after a homeless woman was attacked in her tent, the third in a string of stabbings.

Which studios will be hit the hardest?

Some in the industry, like network TV, were struggling before the writers' strike began.

By Meg James

Striking writers swarming picket lines say big media companies have made billions in profits from the movies and TV shows they have created — and it's time for those firms to share the wealth.

Traditional media companies, meanwhile, have lost billions of dollars building streaming services to compete with Netflix, and they say they must cut program expenses, not increase them.

Conflicting narratives, yet both may be true.

"We are in a golden age of spending on television," Neil Begley, a Moody's Investors Service senior vice president, said Thursday. "But we're in a 'lead age' for profits. Traditional media companies are facing a new reality, and they're having a tough time adjusting."

The strike by the Writers Guild of America — the first since the 2007-08 walkout that lasted 100 days — is unfolding against a larger backdrop of entertainment industry turmoil and historic workplace shifts.

Technology companies, including Amazon, which owns the Prime Video streaming service, have helped steer some economic sectors toward a greater reliance on artificial intelligence and short-term workers, fueling the WGA's anxieties about pay, job security and future opportunities.

Traditional entertainment companies, including Paramount Global, which owns CBS and Paramount Pictures, are grappling with

[See **Strike,** A9]

Jabin Botsford Washington Post

SEN. DIANNE Feinstein on Capitol Hill last year. One observer said it is "inexplicable" that the senator "would compromise the public interest in this way."

Feinstein's critics on edge

The senator's unwillingness to reveal her condition irks transparency advocates. Tell us more, they say.

By Melanie Mason, Benjamin Oreskes and Cameron Joseph

WASHINGTON — A handful of activists from the progressive group Indivisible hopped on Zoom this week to directly pose questions to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's staff that are swirling in the U.S. Capitol and California political circles.

Will the Democratic senator, who was diagnosed with shingles in late February and has not been back to Washington since, return to the Senate, they asked, according to a participant on the call. If so, when? Is there a process to determine her timetable, or a plan if she cannot return?

The answers — or lack thereof — left them unsatisfied.

"They were lovely people, but they changed the subject," said Patti Crane, who is a member of the Indivisible South Bay L.A. chapter and attended the meeting. "They didn't answer our questions."

For years, Feinstein has swatted down growing concerns about her health, assuring constituents largely through statements to the media that she is still able to serve. But with her prolonged absence from the Capitol this spring, pressure is building on the 89-year-old senator and her staff to provide additional details about her condition.

With Democrats holding a bare-bones majority in the Senate, they need Feinstein's vote to confirm

[See **Feinstein,** A6]

HEALTH OUTLOOK: Shingles could present chronic pain and other problems for older patients such as Sen. Dianne Feinstein, doctors say. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

ANALYSIS

Chief Justice Roberts has a Clarence Thomas problem

By David G. Savage

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. has always said he believes ethical standards at the Supreme Court should depend not on clear and binding rules, but on the "good judgment" of the nine justices.

That assertion is being tested as never before by Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife, Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, whose willingness to accept gifts has turned an uncomfortable spotlight on Roberts and the high court.

Roberts has held himself out as the model of an independent, nonpartisan jurist during his 17-year tenure.

He has avoided political or ideological gatherings, including the Federalist Society, the favorite forum for conservative judges and lawyers. In his personal and public behavior, he appears to follow the "Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges" — first adopted in 1973 — which states that federal judges "should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integri-

[See **Ethics,** A7]

Lakers routed by Golden State

Klay Thompson's 30 points help Warriors tie up the series at one game each in a 127-100 blowout. **SPORTS, B10**

Drag star faces rape accusation

DJ Pierce, known as Shangela, denies a "We're Here" worker's allegation of sexual assault. **CALENDAR, E1**

App resembles early Twitter

Bluesky looks and feels like the social media giant did 10 years ago, Brian Merchant writes. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather

A morning shower. L.A. Basin: 64/50. **B6**

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4 Proud Boys found guilty of sedition

A fifth member is also convicted of serious felonies in the Jan. 6 insurrection.

By Michael Kunzelman and Lindsay Whitehurst

WASHINGTON — Former Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio and three other members of the far-right extremist group were convicted Thursday of a plot to attack the U.S. Capitol in a desperate bid to keep Donald Trump in power after the Republican lost the 2020 presidential election.

A jury in Washington found Tarrio guilty of seditious conspiracy after hearing from witnesses over more than three months in one of the most serious cases brought in the attack that unfolded Jan. 6, 2021.

Jurors cleared a fifth defendant — Dominic Pezzola — of the sedition charge, though he was convicted of other serious felonies. The judge excused the jury without delivering a verdict on some counts — including another conspiracy charge for Pezzola — after jurors failed to reach a unanimous decision.

It's a significant milestone for the Justice Department, which has secured seditious conspiracy convictions against the leaders of two major extremist groups prosecutors say were intent on keeping Democrat Joe Biden out of the White House at all costs. The

[See **Extremists,** A7]

VISIT…

Yes, it don't mean a king, if it ain't got that bling

PATT MORRISON

Associated Press

BRITAIN'S Queen Elizabeth II, seated on the throne, receives the fealty of the Archbishop of Canterbury, center with back to the camera, and other bishops during her coronation in Westminster Abbey in June 1953.

The oldest crown ever found in England, a dented bronze circlet, turned up two days after Christmas 1988, a full 2,000 years after both it and the man who wore it — now no more than a skull — were buried on a chalk ridge in the county of Kent.

Skip ahead 20 centuries to other British crowns. On Saturday, one of them will crown the latest king in the 39th coronation at Westminster Abbey. It has not been used in 70 years, since it crowned his mother at the nation's last coronation. Another crown will sit on the head of his wife, the new queen; until now, it has been on display for those same 70 years in the Tower of London.

Museums in Europe are filled with the jeweled relics of kings and queens, the supreme headgear of monarchy. The difference — that immensely profitable difference that draws people to London from democracies and republics and dictatorships the world over — is that in Britain, once in a while, these objects emerge from the display cases and come to life again for their purpose: as the living ceremonial ornaments of a singularly surviving monarchy.

It's a splendid haul.

Much of what you'll see in the coronation of Charles III dates from the 1660s. In the many decades since, monarchs couldn't afford to keep real stones in their crowns. They rented them to pop into the settings for big occasions, then returned them to jewel dealers. Only with the cornucopia of jewels cascading from the British Empire into Queen Victoria's vaults were valuable stones placed permanently into the regalia.

So here's some — but by no means all — of the bling to track.

Those sweet, sweet rides

Technically not bling, but the first big, gold-y thing you'll see — as the uncrowned king and queen head to Westminster Abbey, along a route about one-third the length of that taken by Queen Elizabeth II for her coronation in 1953 — is the Australian State Coach.

The vehicle that will roll out of the Buckingham Palace gates was a gift from, you guessed it, Australia in 1988. Using it here is a gesture toward the nation that the new king wants to keep in the Commonwealth family. It looks like ye olde coache, but it has electric windows, AC and hydraulic suspension.

Both Charles and Camilla have bad backs, and for the trip back to Buckingham Palace, the newly crowned monarchs will ride in grand discomfort in that 1763 beast the Gold State Coach. How big is it? I consulted Luis Chiappe, who directs the Dinosaur Institute at the L.A. County Natural History Museum, to make sure: The Gold State Coach, 29 feet long, 12 feet high, weighing four tons, is approximately like having a gilded triceratops mounted on wheels and rolled down London streets. It has special armrests to support the royal arms that are holding paraphernalia like scepters.

From the outside, it looks glorious; from the inside, it's wretched. Queen Victoria wrote of its "distressing oscillations," and the late Queen Elizabeth II described it simply as "horrible."

Crowns: The original golden arches

Britain's most important crowns have arches over the top. These can signify that the kingdom is an empire unto itself, not subject to any authority but God's, which is why there's a cross. They can also just make the crown sturdier, or both.

As for tiaras: Brace yourselves, ye lovers of grandeur and glitter, for there are distressing reports that, as part of scaling down and cutting back on the glitter factor, Catherine, the Princess of Wales and the next queen, will wear not a tiara but a circlet of flowers. The horror! Charles wants a low-key event — but no tiaras? That's like the Angelenos who wear cargo shorts and tank tops to opening night at the opera!

(Side note: Peers and peeresses — dukes, marquises and marchionesses, earls and countesses and so on — have been asked to not wear their traditional ermine-and-red-velvet cloaks, or the silver-gilt coronets of their rank. Peers can be notoriously eccentric, so who knows what outfits they might wear instead — maybe cargo shorts? — but this is not an unmixed blessing. Those robes can stink of mothballs, and poorer peers have been known to rent-a-robe, or to use rabbit instead of ermine fur and apply smudges of charcoal to replicate the patterns of ermine.)

Now for the starring bling.

St. Edward's Crown

Charles will be crowned with St. Edward's Crown. St. Edward the Confessor was a bona fide saint and English king who died in 1066, not long before England was invaded by that William the Conqueror guy, the illegitimate son of a French Norman duke and a tanner's daughter. This crown is the 1660s version of the original, and it's worn only once in any reign: for the coronation.

It's not as valuable as other crowns, for it's set with mostly semiprecious stones. But 22-karat gold is heavy, and this crown weighs about five pounds. Before her coronation, Elizabeth II sat at her desk wearing it in order to get used to its weight.

If you want to feel the burden of royalty, try wearing a five-pound sack of flour on your head for three hours.

The Imperial State Crown

Just as Charles III will change from a red velvet cloak to one of purple after he's crowned, so will he remove St. Edward's Crown and put on the Imperial State Crown. It's the same crown he'll wear every year for the opening of Parliament. It weighs less than half as much as St. Edward's Crown, so, whew.

And it's much more valuable, with nearly 3,000 diamonds and extraordinary, historic jewels. The biggest of these, gleaming like a headlamp in a miner's hard hat, is the 317-carat Cullinan II. It's the second-largest stone cut from a 3,106-carat monster diamond given to King Edward VII in 1907, after the Boer War, by a British-run region of South Africa.

Above that is a 170-carat lump of red, the Black Prince's ruby, supposedly worn in the helmet of Henry V at his improbable victory over the French at Agincourt. ("We few, we happy few" — that Shakespeare bit.) Above are pearls that belonged to Queen Elizabeth I. The second Queen Elizabeth loved pearls and felt sorry for these — they look "not very happy," she said, because pearls are "like living things, they need warming." They get no cuddles in the Tower of London.

At the back of the crown is the oblong-ish 104-carat Stuart sapphire. It used to be at the front but got demoted to make way for the Cullinan II diamond. A truly ancient sapphire, St. Edward's, is at the center of the Maltese cross on top of the Imperial State Crown. Fairly good authorities say it was found when the saint-king's body was moved to the abbey nearly 900 years ago.

Even though this crown is lighter than the coronation crown, Queen Victoria wrote that it "hurt me a good deal." Queen Elizabeth II described it as "unwieldy," especially when trying to read a speech; you had to hold the speech in front of you, because if you looked down to read it, the crown "would fall off."

Queen Mary's Crown

King Charles III adored his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and probably would have liked his wife, Camilla, to wear her crown for the coronation. But it comes with too much political baggage, 105 carats' worth — the contentious Koh-i-Noor diamond, a trophy of the 19th century empire that the Indian government would very much like back.

Instead, Camilla will be crowned with the crown that Charles' great-grandmother, Queen Mary, wife of King George V, received in 1911. It had the Koh-i-Noor mounted in it then, but the stone has been removed. We may see in its place Cullinans III and IV, a mere 95 and 63 carats, respectively, along with Cullinan V, 19 carats, all cut from that same heart-sized raw diamond.

This is the first time in almost 300 years that a queen consort has been crowned with another queen's crown; Charles is a great believer in recycling.

Rings ...

The coronation ring has been called "England's Wedding Ring" probably since Queen Elizabeth I kept getting grief for not getting married. She would hold up her right hand and show off the ring, nowadays a classic St. George's Cross of sapphires and rubies, and tell her critics that she was already married — to England. At Queen Victoria's coronation, the clergyman forced it onto the wrong finger, and the 19-year-old queen wrote that she had "the greatest difficulty" in getting it off her swollen digit, and "not without great pain."

... and other things

Coronations miss no opportunity to load up on the symbolism, including that massive royal Golden Snitch called the Orb. It too dates from 1661, but earlier monarchs all had one. This one is about the size of a cantaloupe, and even hollow, it weighs about 2½ pounds. It is girded with jewels and topped with a jeweled cross to show Jesus' dominion over the world.

Even a sovereign has only two hands, so near the end of the ceremony, the monarch has to set the Orb on the altar to hold the two scepters.

Sticks with stones (big precious ones)

So much to keep straight: The scepter with cross paradoxically stands for secular authority under God. It goes in the right hand. And the scepter with dove, for spiritual influence and the Holy Ghost, goes in the left.

The dove one — Edward the Confessor's symbol — is nice enough, but that scepter with the cross will knock your eye out.

There at the top, glittering like an ice floe, is Cullinan I, the Star of Africa, 530 carats of virtually perfect diamond-ness. The monarch walks out of the Abbey and into that dinosaur gold coach carrying both scepters.

Queen Camilla will have her own hands full, with the 1685 consort's cross-topped scepter, a hefty gold rod with a diamond-studded handle for a sure grip, and — likely to displease William, Prince of Wales — another 1685 scepter, this one made of elephant ivory and topped with a dove.

William has campaigned ferociously against ivory as "a symbol of destruction, not luxury," and he reportedly wants all of the royal family's ivory baubles to be destroyed.

Camilla could take a cue from that dove of peace on the other scepter and refuse to carry the ivory scepter, as a peacemaking gesture to her stepson.

Not your average spoon

The oldest piece of English regal regalia is ... a spoon. It was certainly used at the coronation of King Richard the Lionhearted almost 900 years ago, but for what purpose, no one's exactly sure — certainly not for eating.

The gilded silver spoon escaped the parliamentary melting pot because a man who'd once worked for the king bought it for 16 shillings. He returned it to King Charles II for his coronation, probably to suck up to royal favor again.

During the coronation, it's filled with a special holy oil, and the Archbishop of Canterbury dips his fingers into it to anoint the monarch. He'll make the sign of the cross in oil on Charles' head, chest and hands.

That's well pared down from medieval anointings like those on Henry IV. Lese-majeste, I know, but he must have gleamed like a Roman gladiator after being oiled on his arms, shoulders and back, as well as his hands, chest and head, where he had a king-size case of lice going. We won't be able to see Charles' anointing because, like his mother before him, he has chosen to screen himself from the public's view during the most sacred part of the coronation.

Camilla's anointing might or might not take place in public camera view. When Edward VII's queen, Alexandra, was anointed in 1902, she worried that the oil wouldn't "take" if the archbishop put it on her hair, because she wore false curls. So he put it on her forehead instead, but it trickled onto her nose, where it would have been indiscreet to wipe it away, however much it may have tickled.

A quintet of swords

Five swords will figure in the coronation.

The sword of state is carried in front of the monarch on many occasions as a reminder of royal power (not much these days).

The sword of offering is so gorgeous that it would almost be a pleasure to be stabbed by it. It was made for the incredibly fancy coronation — 20 times more expensive than most others — of that fat King George IV, who did have taste, if not the money to underwrite it. This sword cost almost 6,000 pounds in 1820 money (nearly 468,000 pounds, or $584,000, in today's).

Three other swords, symbols of spiritual justice, mercy and temporal justice, are walked in front of the sovereign, just as they were as far back as Richard the Lionhearted. They're all pointing upward, unsheathed, reminding everyone of the monarch's powers. The sword of mercy, called Curtana, has a blunt tip because ... mercy.

Tyre Nichols' death at hands of police is ruled a homicide

The motorist beaten by Memphis officers succumbed to blunt force injuries to the head, autopsy finds.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

City of Memphis

A BATTERED Tyre Nichols, surrounded by Memphis officers, is propped against a vehicle on Jan. 7.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Tyre Nichols died of blunt force injuries to the head after he was beaten by Memphis police officers during a January arrest, an autopsy report released Thursday showed.

The autopsy said the manner of death was homicide. The report released by the medical examiner in Memphis described brain injuries, cuts and bruises to the head and other parts of the body.

Nichols was Black, as are the five police officers fired and charged with second-degree murder and other counts after his death. They pleaded not guilty Feb. 17.

Benjamin Crump, an attorney for the Nichols family, said they were briefed Wednesday on the autopsy report by the district attorney in Shelby County, which includes Memphis.

"The official autopsy report further propels our commitment to seeking justice for this senseless tragedy," a statement released by Crump's law firm said.

Nichols was stopped by police Jan. 7 for an alleged traffic violation and was aggressively pulled out of his car by officers.

An officer shot at Nichols with a stun gun, and Nichols ran away toward his nearby home, according to video released by the city of Memphis and other police records.

Officers who were part of a crime-suppression team known as Scorpion caught up with Nichols and punched him, kicked him and slugged him with a baton as he yelled for his mother.

After the beating, officers stood by and talked with one another as Nichols struggled with his injuries while he was on the ground, video showed. One officer also took photos of Nichols as he was propped up against an unmarked police car, video and other records showed.

Nichols was taken to a hospital in an ambulance that left the site of the beating 27 minutes after emergency medical technicians arrived, authorities said.

Nichols, 29, died three days later. His funeral was held Feb. 1.

Police said Nichols had been suspected of reckless driving, but no verified evidence of a traffic violation has emerged in public documents or in video, and Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis has said she has seen no evidence justifying the stop or the officers' response. She disbanded the Scorpion unit after Nichols' death.

In addition to the five Black officers fired and charged with murder, one white officer who was involved in the initial traffic stop has been fired. That officer will not face charges for his role in Nichols' death. Another officer who has not been identified also has been fired. An additional officer retired before he could be fired.

Three Memphis Fire Department employees who were at the site of the arrest have been fired. Two Shelby County sheriff's deputies who also were there were suspended.

Nichols' family, their lawyers, community leaders and activists have called for changes within the Memphis Police Department concerning issues related to traffic stops, use of force, improving transparency and other policies. The City Council has passed an ordinance ending traffic stops based solely on a single secondary violation, such as an improperly placed license tag.

Nichols' mother has filed a $550-million federal lawsuit against the city, the Police Department and Davis. The city has declined to comment on the lawsuit.

U.S. seeks to keep lid on tinderbox in Caucasus

State Department says bitter rivals Armenia and Azerbaijan made progress in talks, but key differences persist.

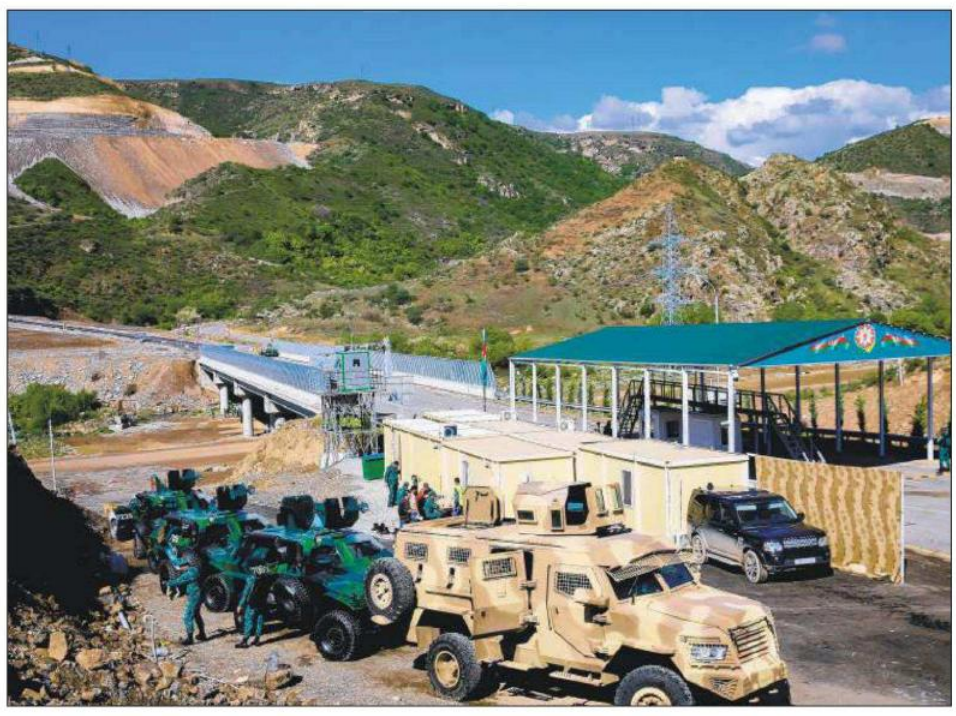
By Tracy Wilkinson

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration this week hosted risky peace talks between bitter South Caucasus rivals Armenia and Azerbaijan, hoping to avert a second major war in the region but failing to bridge stubborn differences between the two sides.

The talks — the first to bring together the foreign ministers of the two countries in a room for multiple days — started Sunday night and wrapped up Thursday.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, signaling the conclusion of the meetings, was unable to announce any decisions.

"The two sides have discussed some very tough issues over the last few days and they've made tangible progress on a durable peace agreement," Blinken said. "I hope that they see — and I believe that they do, as I do — that there is an agreement within sight, within reach."



Tofik Babayev AFP/Getty Images

A CHECKPOINT set up by Azerbaijan along the lone land route between Armenia and the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh drew criticism from the U.S.

Blinken said he expected more talks would take place but did not offer a detailed schedule.

"The last mile of any marathon is always the hardest; we know that," Blinken said as he thanked his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts for their efforts. "But the United States is here to continue to help both of our friends cross the finish line. And as I say, I think we're very much within reach of that."

Reports from the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, indicated progress toward "mutual understandings" that could form part of an eventual peace accord, but with significant differences remaining.

Throughout the week, U.S. officials had refused to give updates on the talks while also voicing optimism about a possible breakthrough.

"We remain committed to promoting a peaceful future for the South Caucasus region," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said Wednesday. "We believe that peace between these two countries is possible. We believe that there is not a military solution to this."

But military actions have overshadowed diplomatic gestures in recent months. The two former Soviet republics have had territorial disputes for years. Fighting in 2020 killed nearly 7,000 soldiers, and deadly skirmishes broke out again last month.

The crux of the dispute is a breakaway enclave of territory within Azerbaijan that is populated by ethnic Armenians and controlled by pro-Armenian separatists. The contested region is known to Azerbaijan as Nagorno-Karabakh, and to Armenians as Artsakh, a mountainous area slightly larger than Rhode Island.

Russia, the European Union, Turkey and even Iran have had their fingers in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict at one time or another. The United States stepped into the fray late last year when Blinken, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, pulled together his counterparts, Ararat Mirzoyan of Armenia and Azerbaijan's Jeyhun Bayramov, for an initial contact.

Blinken was overseeing this week's talks with Mirzoyan and Bayramov, who have consistently appeared somber in photographs released from the meeting site just outside Washington.

Ahead of the meetings, Blinken spoke with the top leaders of both countries, urging diplomacy but also scolding Azerbaijan for blocking access to Nagorno-Karabakh by setting up a checkpoint along the Lachin Corridor, the lone land route between Armenia and the disputed enclave.

Armenia claims the restricted access has denied the population food, medicine and other humanitarian necessities.

"We have not parsed our words about the need for the free flow of traffic and people and commerce through the Lachin Corridor," Patel said. "That continues to be the case."

The U.S. is often seen as favoring Armenia, primarily because of support in Congress for large Armenian American constituencies in Southern California and elsewhere.

But some U.S.-based pro-Armenia activists criticize the Biden administration for continued military aid to Azerbaijan and what they consider to be insufficient humanitarian aid for the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"For our government to truly act as an honest broker, they must stop military aid to the aggressor," said Aram Hamparian, executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America. He was not optimistic about the outcome of this week's meetings.

The Azerbaijani Embassy in Washington did not return calls seeking comment.

Alliances in the conflict have shifted over the years. Initially, Russia backed majority-Christian Armenia over majority-Muslim Azerbaijan, which had the support of Turkey.

But Russia is now bogged down in its disastrous war on Ukraine and less able to supply Armenia with weapons and other material support, analysts say. Armenia incurred heavy losses in the fighting in 2020 and was forced to cede some territory to Azerbaijan under the terms of a Russia-brokered cease-fire agreement.

A report by the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence late last year predicted Azerbaijan would be the "country most likely to renew large-scale conflict" in an effort to "consolidate and expand the gains" from 2020.

"Armenia is less likely to initiate fighting because of the deteriorated state of its military in the aftermath of the 2020 conflict," the report says.

"The Armenian Armed Forces suffered heavy equipment and personnel losses during the conflict in 2020 and have been unable to reconstitute because of funding and procurement issues."

That may make Armenia more willing to compromise, analysts say, despite what some perceive as having the U.S. in its corner.

Russia now blames U.S. for alleged drone hit

As Zelensky visits The Hague, Moscow says the White House was behind purported strike targeting Putin.

By Mike Corder

THE HAGUE — Ukraine and Russia pressed their wartime rhetoric Thursday, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressing confidence that Vladimir Putin would be convicted of war crimes, and the Kremlin alleging that the U.S. was behind what it called an assassination attempt against the Russian president.

The countries' leaders have personally attacked each other multiple times during the war that Russia started by invading Ukraine in February 2022. The latest flare-up came Wednesday, with Russia's claim that Ukraine had attacked the Kremlin in Moscow with drones meant to assassinate Putin.

Zelensky denied that Ukrainian forces were responsible for the purported drone attack. The Kremlin promised unspecified retaliation for what it termed a "terrorist" act, and pro-Kremlin figures called for the assassinations of senior Ukrainian leaders.

Uncertainty still surrounds exactly what happened in the alleged attack.

Putin's spokesman on Thursday accused the United States of involvement. To generate domestic support for the war, Moscow has often tried to blame Washington for trying to destroy Russia through its help for Ukraine.

Bernat Armangue Associated Press

MOURNERS hold a funeral for two children killed last week during a Russian attack in Uman, Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters during a daily conference call that the Kremlin was "well aware that the decision on such actions and terrorist attacks is not made in Kyiv, but in Washington."

"And then Kyiv does what it's told to do," Peskov said, without offering evidence.

John F. Kirby, a spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council at the White House, called that assertion "ludicrous." Zelensky, in the Netherlands, said he was "not interested" in the Kremlin's opinion.

U.S. intelligence is still trying to determine who was behind the drone incident and is exploring various possibilities, including a false-flag operation by Russia or that a fringe group with sympathies for Ukraine could have been involved, according to a U.S. official.

But the official, who spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive matter, said intelligence officials don't yet have any definitive answers.

The official added that the Biden administration "certainly would not support the strike against Mr. Putin."

Zelensky's top advisor, Mykhailo Podolyak, claimed Thursday that Russia had "staged" the alleged drone attack. He cited the delay in Russian state media reporting it and "simultaneous video from different angles" that appeared to show the aftermath of the alleged 2:30 a.m. attack.

The Washington-based Institute for the Study of War also saw evidence of staging.

"Russia likely staged this attack in an attempt to bring the war home to a Russian domestic audience and set conditions for a wider societal mobilization," the think tank said.

Given recent Russian moves to bolster security, it's "extremely unlikely that two drones could have penetrated multiple layers of air defense and detonated or been shot down just over the heart of the Kremlin in a way that provided spectacular imagery caught nicely on camera," the institute stated.

In The Hague, where the International Criminal Court is based, Zelensky urged the global community to hold Putin accountable and told the war crimes court's judges that Russia's leader "deserves to be sentenced for [his] criminal actions right here in the capital of the international law."

In March, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Putin on suspicion of war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine. It was the first time the global court circulated a warrant for a leader of one of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members.

Zelensky's visit to the Netherlands came a day after he went to Finland, which doubled the size of NATO's border with Russia when it joined the military alliance last month, largely out of its concerns about Moscow's long-term ambitions.

The Ukrainian president also used his trip to press the prime ministers of Belgium and the Netherlands to send advanced warplanes so his country can achieve "justice on the battlefield." Zelensky has successfully assembled significant Western military and political support for Ukraine's defense since the war began.

Next week, he is expected to go to Berlin, the capital of European Union economic powerhouse Germany, in the latest display of the Western might marshaled against Putin.

Zelensky's trips have paid dividends. After traveling to Washington in December and then to London, Paris and Brussels in February, Ukraine received heavy artillery and tanks.

But the chances of Putin standing trial in The Hague are remote. The court, which puts individuals on trial for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression, doesn't have a police force to execute its warrants. The Russian leader is unlikely to travel to any of the ICC's 123 member nations — the U.S. and Ukraine are not among them — which are under obligation to arrest him, if they can.

On the battlefield, Ukraine's military said that three Russian drones that hit the southern city of Odesa early Thursday had "for Moscow" and "for the Kremlin" written on them, seemingly implying they were sent in retaliation for the reported strike on the Kremlin.

Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, was the target of an air attack Thursday morning for the third time in four days, but defense systems intercepted all drones and missiles, Ukrainian authorities said.

On Thursday night, air-raid sirens sounded again. People sheltered in underground tunnels beneath Kyiv's Independence Square, known as Maidan, as air-raid sirens wailed. Two defensive missiles streaked across the evening sky, and a loud explosion was heard. No casualties were immediately reported.

In Russia, drones hit two oil facilities in southern regions of the country near Ukraine in what appeared to be a series of attacks on fuel depots behind enemy lines, Russian media reported Thursday.

Corder writes for the Associated Press. AP writer Aamer Madhani contributed to this report.

Peru used excessive force on protesters, rights commission says

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru — The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights said that Peru's military and police forces used excessive force to quell violent anti-government protests and that they should be investigated as possible extrajudicial executions and massacres.

The commission, an autonomous arm of the Organization of American States, said Wednesday that the violations took place in several regions across Peru but centered its investigation on the cities of Ayacucho and Juliaca.

Those cities saw the largest number of deaths during the protests from December through February demanding the resignation of President Dina Boluarte and members of Congress.

Among the violence detailed in the commission report was a fatal clash in Ayacucho on Dec. 15, when soldiers fired rifles at demonstrators who were trying to enter the airport, killing 10 civilians. The commission said it reviewed testimonies indicating that soldiers also fired shots outside the airport, hitting bystanders and people who were fleeing the confrontations.

The report also found that 18 civilians died on Jan. 9 in Juliaca, including protesters, a brigade doctor and a teenage bystander. All of the victims died from bullets, pellets and blunt objects, according to the report.

The protests were carried out for the most part by Indigenous Peruvians and peasant communities, mainly from the southern regions of Apurimac, Ayacucho, Puno and Arequipa, which saw the highest number of victims.

The commission said the killings of protesters may have been extrajudicial executions and massacres and should be investigated "with due diligence and with an ethnic-racial focus."

Monitoring the crisis in Peru, it concludes, requires "broad, genuine, and inclusive talks with an intercultural and territorial focus, where all the different groups in society are adequately represented."

The unrest began in early December after the arrest of Pedro Castillo, Peru's first president from a rural peasant background, following his widely condemned attempt to dissolve Congress and head off its efforts to impeach him.

Protesters, mainly in neglected rural areas of the country still loyal to Castillo, have sought immediate elections, Boluarte's resignation, Castillo's release and justice for those killed in clashes with police.

Martin Mejia Associated Press

POLICE FACE protesters in Chao, Peru, in February. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights found evidence of potential extrajudicial killings.

We don't produce fentanyl, 'El Chapo' sons say

In a letter, the siblings say they don't make the drug — nor feed victims to tigers.

By Patrick J. McDonnell

MEXICO CITY — We don't feed our adversaries to tigers, nor do we beat them to death with baseball bats.

We didn't vow to "flood the streets" of the United States with fentanyl.

"We are victims of persecution and have been made into scapegoats."

Those are among the assertions in a startling letter to the media from "Los Chapitos," sons of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán — the notorious ex-kingpin of the Sinaloa cartel now serving a life sentence in a U.S. "supermax" prison in Colorado. In 2019, El Chapo was convicted in federal court in Brooklyn, N.Y., of smuggling hundreds of tons of cocaine and other drugs, conspiring to murder rivals and heading one of the world's largest trafficking networks.

In a series of federal indictments unsealed last month in New York, four of his sons were charged with drug trafficking and other crimes, and accused of leading a cartel faction that constitutes "the largest, most violent and most prolific fentanyl trafficking operation in the world." The Justice Department has offered multimillion-dollar rewards for information leading to the capture of Jesús Alfredo, 36, Iván Archivaldo, 39, and Joaquín, also 36 — who are fugitives.

The other brother, Ovidio Guzmán López, 33, alias "The Mouse," was arrested outside Culiacan, in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, in January. Mexican authorities conducting the arrest faced attacks from cartel gunmen that left at least 29 dead, including 10 soldiers. The attacks shut down roads and airports and shut down Culiacan. U.S authorities are seeking Ovidio Guzmán's extradition from Mexico.

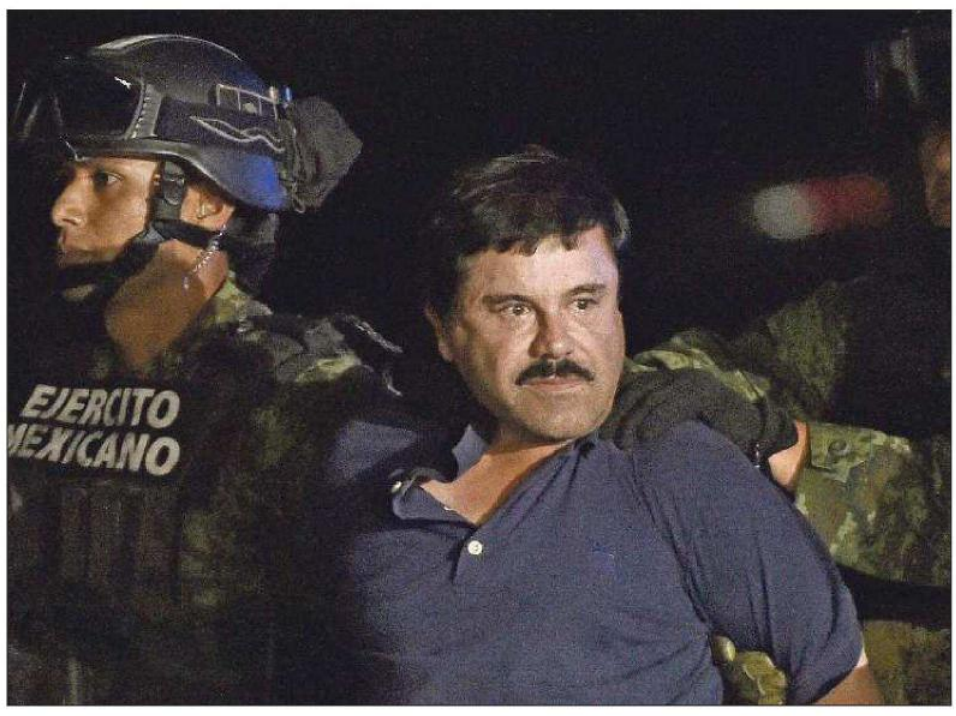
In the various federal indictments, the brothers stand accused of pioneering the manufacture, cross-border smuggling and U.S. distribution of fentanyl. The synthetic opioid is blamed for thousands of deaths in the United States annually.

Clearly keen to avoid their father's fate, the sons sent their four-page missive to Mexico's Milenio news outlet, which published it late Wednesday. A lawyer for the family, José Refugio Rodríguez, confirmed to reporters that *"los muchachos"* — the brothers — wrote the unsigned letter, although it was unclear which, or how many of El Chapo's ten 10 or more sons were responsible for it.

The unusual missive made headlines here as tensions between Washington and Mexico City have been rising over fentanyl. Some Republican lawmakers have even suggested deploying U.S. troops to Mexico to help stem the menace.

That has raised the ire of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has insisted that his country is only a transit corridor for fentanyl, not a manufacturing hub.

U.S. officials counter that the vast majority of illegal fentanyl in the United States is produced clandestinely in Mexico from precursor chemicals imported from China. The drug is then smuggled across the border to thriving U.S. markets from Los Angeles to New York, they say.



Omar Torres AFP/Getty Images

MEXICAN drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán after his capture in 2016. His sons say they have been victimized because of their father's global notoriety.

Among other things, the letter from Los Chapitos seeks to refute allegations in a recent series of U.S. indictments naming Sinaloa cartel operatives across the world, including associates in China.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said it had infiltrated the infamous cartel and uncovered lurid details — including the torture of captured rivals, experiments with fentanyl on human guinea pigs (some of whom allegedly died), and the feeding of enemies "dead or alive" to pet tigers, according to one indictment.

"We don't have and didn't have tigers," the brothers declared in their letter.

The siblings also denied another allegation — that they planned to flood the United States to create "streets of junkies," according to U.S. officials.

Instead, the brothers repudiated the notion that they had ever engaged in fentanyl production or smuggling.

The brothers portray themselves as innocents who have been victimized because of their father's global notoriety. In rambling passages, they denounce others who profit from their father's name in producing merchandise including clothing, alcoholic drinks and so-called *narco-corridos*, ballads that lionize the exploits of El Chapo.

"The benefits are incalculable for people and businesses who today use our name," the brothers wrote, noting the role of social media in disseminating the El Chapo brand. "We wanted to choose a distinct life with good studies, which was denied to us."

Before their father's arrest, Los Chapitos were often portrayed the Mexican media as slothful, hard-drinking playboys who drove luxurious cars and spent their days partying at fancy restaurants and resorts — living off the proceeds of the ill-gotten gains of their father, who had risen from humble origins to become, according to U.S authorities, the world's richest drug smuggler.

Calling themselves "prudent," the brothers contend that other groups traffic in fentanyl, sometimes using their name as cover. The siblings also assert that "no judge or magistrate will treat us with justice."

There was no immediate reaction to the letter from the Drug Enforcement Administration or the Justice Department.

The letter probably was an effort to drum up some public sympathy south of the border as U.S. authorities increasingly press their Mexican counterparts to take down the three fugitive brothers.

"I firmly believe that Los Chapitos are feeling the pressure," said Mike Vigil, former head of international operations for DEA. "And they are probably trying to gain some public support from politicians who may want to extradite them."

Mexican President López Obrador declined to comment on the contents of the letter, but vowed that there was no "protected group" in Mexico.

In February, Mexico's former top security chief, Genaro García Luna, was convicted in federal court in New York of taking bribes to protect the Sinaloa cartel and other gangs whom he was tasked with combating. García Luna, who could face up to life in prison when sentenced, served as Mexico's top security official from 2006 to 2012 under the administration of ex-President Felipe Calderón.

Special correspondent Cecilia Sánchez contributed to this report.

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A grand spectacle amid tough times

[**Coronation,** from A1]
point," said Victoria Honeyman, an associate professor of British politics at Leeds University.

In light of that, some see the country's first coronation of a monarch in 70 years as a beacon amid general gloom, an uplifting reminder of shared heritage, an affirmation of historic glory undimmed by loss of empire.

But with economic hardship hitting even many Britons who previously considered themselves comfortably middle class, some see the coronation as simply "one more thing to be annoyed about," Honeyman said.

A vocal sector of society, she said, "would argue that it's unseemly that while some people are resorting to food banks, someone else is riding down the street in a golden carriage."

The convergence of lavish spectacle and hard times is not necessarily a losing proposition, in terms of public relations. When Charles' late mother, Elizabeth II, was crowned queen in 1953, only eight years after the end of World War II, Britain was still in the grip of punishing deprivation.

The splendor of a royal extravaganza was viewed very differently back then, as a display of resilience and pride in a country left battered but unbowed by a savage war.

Charles has spoken often of his desire to streamline the modern-day monarchy, and in a gesture toward simplicity — a relative concept in this context — the coronation will include sustainability-friendly gestures such as the reuse of some robes from past investitures, rather than having new ones made.

Andreea Alexandru Associated Press

KING Charles III will ascend the throne Saturday, Britain's first coronation of a monarch in 70 years.

Still, in terms of the monarchy's perceived relevance and utility, demographic trends are not in the royal family's favor.

Polls consistently indicate the institution's most ardent fan base is not only dwindling, but also growing older all the time. The big tourism bounce that is said to stem from royal inflection points — weddings, funerals, formal investitures such as this one — can be difficult to quantify, as can metrics such as prestige and soft power.

Displays of family dysfunction — perhaps most famously involving the rift with Prince Harry, Charles' second son, who lives in Montecito with his wife, Meghan, and their two children — can give the royals a veneer of relatability, if an unwelcome one. After the release this year of Harry's altogether unsparing memoir, "Spare," British tabloids have been filled with feverish speculation about the degree of frostiness his royal relatives will accord the prince, who is attending the coronation alone while Meghan stays home to mark the fourth birthday of their son, Archie.

The drama underscores the fact that Charles himself is a figure unlikely to fire the popular imagination. At 74, he's nearly three times the age his late mother was when she ascended the throne at 25. At her coronation 70 years ago, beamed around the world in black and white, Elizabeth's youthful visage and slender form made for a poignant counterpoint to the centuries-old regalia and ritual enfolding her.

Charles has "been around for a long, long time, but I don't think he's someone people necessarily feel the most, well, affectionate toward," said Heinz Brandenburg, of the University of Strathclyde's School of Government and Public Policy.

Decades in waiting, however, did give the now-king a chance to develop a public persona that, if not exactly compellingly charismatic, has won him respect in many quarters.

"On the environment, on climate change, you really could say he was a sort of visionary," said Jeff Pooley, a pensioner from Cornwall in southwestern England.

He also has the impression that Charles is "probably a very nice person." But none of that changes his belief that the monarchy is something of a throwback.

One major pre-coronation flap centered on something that fans of football — that would be soccer here, not the American gridiron sport — would call an own-goal: the palace's invitation to the masses to speak aloud their individual allegiance to Charles, whether while watching a livestream at home or viewing it in a neighborhood pub.

That drew near-universal hoots of online derision, with the anti-monarchy group Republic declaring that in a democracy, the head of state should pledge himself to his subjects, not the other way around. Countless others chimed in.

The backlash in turn triggered something of a counter-backlash, with cooler heads pointing out that the language says any listeners who "so desire" should speak up, rather than issuing a Big Brother-esque demand. Still, the damage was done.

The episode served to underscore the fact that the ceremony itself, depending on one's point of view, can be seen as either a solemn invocation of the sacred bond of subject and sovereign, or something more resembling a drawn-out Monty Python sketch, replete with costumes and silly walks.

Or a not-quite-up-to-scratch Harry Potter remake. The Stone of Destiny — a 335-pound rectangular slab borrowed from Scotland for the occasion — is also known as the Stone of Scone, which prompted British novelist Hari Kunzru to write waggishly on Twitter that the sacred object "symbolizes English feudal dominion over all Scottish baked goods."

Whether Britons regard the weekend's goings-on with reverence, disdain or indifference, the overall enthusiasm level is enhanced by the presence of American tourists, whose visible delight in all things royal can leave natives nonplussed.

"I think the North American audience is very excited about it — especially if they find themselves in the U.K. at the time," said Julie Trevisan Hunter, marketing director for a whisky-themed tourist center in Edinburgh.

But Britons in general and Scots in particular, even if they happen to have a soft spot for the monarchy, are culturally far less likely to gush over the grandeur of the occasion, she said.

"We're much more reticent, as a rule," she said. "Whatever we might be feeling, we're not inclined to show the whole of the world."

FOR THE RECORD

Speech on Twitter: In the March 7 Section A, an article described as "brand new" language added to Twitter's violent-speech policy in February prohibiting tweets expressing hopes, wishes or desires for harm. The new language represented an expansion of an earlier prohibition on tweets expressing a hope or desire for "death, serious bodily harm or fatal disease." Although the new policy applies more broadly, extending to wishes of nonserious harm or illness, it was incorrect to say "neither Twitter nor its competitors ever moved to disallow" wishes of harm in the past.

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - LOS ANGELES DIVISION

In re:
BEVERLY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, dba BEVERLY HOSPITAL (A NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION), *et al*,
Debtors,

Lead Case No.: 2:23-bk-12359-SK
Jointly administered with:
Case No.: 2:23-bk-12360-SK
Case No. 2:23-bk-12361-SK

Chapter 11 Case

☒ Affects all Debtors
☐ Affects Beverly Community Hospital Association
☐ Affects Montebello Community Health Services, Inc.
☐ Affects Beverly Hospital Foundation

NOTICE OF CASE COMMENCEMENT OF CHAPTER 11 CASES AND MEETING OF CREDITORS PURSUANT TO SECTION 341 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

COMMENCEMENT OF CASES: On April 19, 2023, the entities listed below (collectively, the "Debtors") filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § § 101-1330 (the "Bankruptcy Code"), with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California (Los Angeles Division) (the "Court"), and an order for relief has been entered. The Debtors' chapter 11 cases are being jointly administered under Case No. 2:23-bk-12359 SK). You may be a creditor of one of the Debtors.

THIS NOTICE LISTS IMPORTANT DEADLINES. You may want to consult an attorney to protect your rights. All documents filed in this case may be inspected at the Office of the Claims and Noticing Agent at the address listed below.

Debtor, Address, Case No., Tax ID No.: Beverly Community Hospital Association, 309 West Beverly Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640 23-12359-SK, 95-1816005; Montebello Community Health Services, Inc., 309 West Beverly Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640, 23-12360-SK, 95-3823550; Beverly Hospital Foundation, 309 West Beverly Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640, 23-12361-SK, 23-7429685

PURPOSE OF CHAPTER 11 FILING: Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code enables a debtor to reorganize or liquidate pursuant to a plan of reorganization. A plan is not effective unless approved by the Court at a confirmation hearing. Creditors will be given notice concerning any plan and will be given notice if this case is dismissed or converted to another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors will remain in possession of their property and will continue to operate their business unless a trustee is appointed. No motion to appoint a trustee has been filed at this time. Creditors may be sent a copy of the plan and a disclosure statement describing the plan. Creditors may have the opportunity to vote on the plan. Creditors will be sent notice of the date of the confirmation hearing and may object to confirmation of the plan and attend the confirmation hearing.

CREDITORS MAY NOT TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS: A creditor is anyone to whom the Debtors owe money or property. Under the Bankruptcy Code, the Debtors are granted certain protection against creditors. Common examples of prohibited actions by creditors include contacting the Debtors to demand repayment, taking action against the Debtors to collect money owed to creditors or to take property of the Debtors and starting or continuing foreclosure actions, repossessions or wage deductions. If unauthorized actions are taken against the Debtors, the Court may penalize the creditor who takes them. A creditor who is considering taking action against the Debtors or property of the Debtors should review section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code and may wish to seek legal advice.

MEETING OF CREDITORS: The Debtors' representative, as specified in Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9001(5), is required to appear at a meeting of creditors on the date and at the place set forth below for the purpose of being examined under oath. Attendance by creditors at the meeting is welcomed, but not required. At the meeting, creditors may examine the Debtors' representative. The meeting may be continued or adjourned from time to time by notice at the meeting, without further written notice to creditors.

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING OF CREDITORS

Beverly Community Hospital Association
Date: May 26, 2023 Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: TELEPHONIC MEETING: CONFERENCE LINE: 1—866—811—2961, PARTICIPANT CODE: 9609127

Montebello Community Health Services, Inc.
Date: May 26, 2023 Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: TELEPHONIC MEETING: CONFERENCE LINE: 1—866—811—2961, PARTICIPANT CODE: 9609127

Beverly Hospital Foundation
Date: May 26, 2023 Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: TELEPHONIC MEETING, CONFERENCE LINE: 1—866—811—2961, PARTICIPANT CODE: 9609127

PROOF OF CLAIM: Schedules of creditors will be filed pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 1007, and the Debtors will seek an order of the Court establishing procedures for the filing of proofs of claim. A proof of claim is a signed statement describing a creditor's claim. Any creditor holding a scheduled claim that is not listed as disputed, contingent or unliquidated as to amount may, but is not required to, file a proof of claim in these cases. Creditors whose claims are not scheduled or whose claims are listed as disputed, contingent or unliquidated as to amount and who desire to participate in these cases or share in any distribution must file their proofs of claim. A creditor who desires to rely on the schedules of creditors has the responsibility for determining that the claim is listed accurately.

A proof of claim may be filed at any time prior to the deadline established by the Court. No deadline has yet been established in these cases. When a deadline is established, all known creditors will received notice of the deadline, along with a proof of claim form indicating how their claim is scheduled and instructions for completing and filing a proof of claim. Proof of claim forms are also available in the office of the clerk of the court of any bankruptcy court. Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC is the claims agent in these cases. The place to request a proof of claim form from the Claims Agent is 222 N Pacific Coast Highway, 3rd Floor, El Segundo, California 90245 or at https://www.kccllc.net/beverly. You will be notified by separate notice when and where to file a proof of claim.

DISCHARGE OF DEBTS: Confirmation of a chapter 11 plan may result in a discharge of debts, which may include all or part of your claim. See section 1141(d) of the Bankruptcy Code. A discharge means that you may never try to collect your claim from any of the Debtors, except as provided in the plan.

NOTICE: You will not receive notice of all documents filed in these cases. All documents filed with the Court, including schedules of the Debtors' property and debts, will be available for inspection at the office of the clerk of the court. Since this case is governed by the Local Bankruptcy Rules regarding electronic means of filing, signing and verifying documents, the Court's docket sheet and documents filed electronically are also accessible at the Court's Internet site, www.nysb.uscourts.gov, through an account obtained from Pacer Service Center by dialing 1-800-676-6856 (from the US) or (210) 301-6440 (from outside the US).

FURTHER INFORMATION: Further information concerning these chapter 11 cases may be obtained by calling 1-866- 967-0490 (from the US) or 1-310-751-2690 (from outside the US). The Claims Agent will also maintain a website, https://www.kccllc.net/beverly, specifically for the Debtors' bankruptcy cases from which anyone may download the claims register and obtain other relevant information and documents pertaining to the Debtors' cases at no extra charge.

LEGAL ADVICE: The staff of the bankruptcy clerk's office cannot give legal advice. Consult a lawyer to determine your rights in this case.

ANALYSIS

McCarthy's 'dangerous' invitation to Netanyahu

Critics see harm in the U.S. speaker courting support from Israeli prime minister, who faces corruption trial.

By Tracy Wilkinson

Ohad Zwigenberg Associated Press

HOUSE SPEAKER Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), right, attends a news conference Monday in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Benajmin Netanyahu, whom critics accuse of trying to undermine democracy.

WASHINGTON — When is an invitation not just an invitation, but a defiant breach of protocol, a brash partisan move and a self-interested political tactic?

When House Speaker Kevin McCarthy travels overseas to invite an embattled, highly unpopular world leader to Washington to address Congress over the reservations of the White House, critics argue.

The Bakersfield Republican led a delegation to Israel this week, where he lavished praise on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and became only the second U.S. House speaker to deliver an address to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, following Newt Gingrich in 1998.

Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, is on trial for corruption and has embarked on plans to change his country's judiciary and other institutions in ways many Israelis say will permanently undermine democracy. His actions have triggered massive protests across the board in Israel, drawing military officers, academics and ordinary citizens alike.

In unusual criticism, President Biden has said Netanyahu's efforts risk violating the very values he believes the U.S. and Israel have long shared. Biden has pointedly declined to invite Netanyahu to the White House since the latter's return to power late last year, a rarity for two such close allies.

Biden has waited "too long" to welcome Netanyahu, McCarthy said in Jerusalem.

"If that doesn't happen, I'll invite the prime minister to come meet with the House," he told the Netanyahu-friendly newspaper Israel Hayom, founded by Sheldon Adelson, the late American casino magnate and mega-donor to GOP and right-wing Israeli causes.

At one point, it was taboo for elected U.S. officials to travel overseas and criticize the U.S. government's foreign policies. It's the "never beyond the water's edge" doctrine — say what you will at home, but not in foreign lands.

Such diplomatic rules appear to be a thing of the past.

McCarthy's invitation to Netanyahu recalls a similar move by Republican lawmakers in 2015, when they brought the Israeli prime minister to Washington to address a joint session of Congress.

On that trip, Netanyahu pointedly skipped the White House, then occupied by President Obama, with whom relations were frosty. He used his speech to attack one of Obama's key foreign policy initiatives — the international agreement that curtailed Iran's nuclear activities.

But several diplomats and analysts said McCarthy's performance is in some ways more egregious. It continues to position the GOP firmly in Netanyahu's ever-more-controversial camp.

Israel was probably first used as a partisan wedge issue during Gingrich's late 1990s tenure.

The trend was cemented by former President Trump, who ingratiated himself to Netanyahu and overtly favored Israel in all issues, including its long-standing conflict with the Palestinians. He moved the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in contravention of decades of understanding that the holy city remained a matter of dispute.

That approach was decried by numerous U.S. and Israeli diplomats and politicians.

The strength of U.S. support for Israel has traditionally been rooted in its position as a bipartisan issue. Support never wavered, regardless of who sat in the White House or which political party controlled Congress.

In his speech to the Knesset, McCarthy said he was paying homage to bipartisan support for Israel. But others saw it as the opposite.

McCarthy's "move shows how partisan Israel has become in US politics with Rs as the Israel we love you right or wrong party," Aaron David Miller, a veteran U.S. diplomat who worked in the Middle East for decades, said on Twitter.

"It fits ever so nicely into Republican efforts to corner the market on support for Israel and to paint Democrats as at best not committed," Miller continued. "It's a natural symbiosis which is why it's so dangerous."

McCarthy was likely trying to cater to Jewish voters in the U.S., as well as those pro-Israel members of his rebellious GOP base who have tested his tenuous grasp on power. But his calculation is off the mark, according to shifting public opinion.

Longtime, reliable U.S. supporters of Israel have increasingly turned against the current Netanyahu government, which is populated with extremist ultra-Orthodox and ultranationalist politicians. Hundreds of American Jews have held protest rallies outside Israeli diplomatic missions in numerous U.S. cities, while hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been staging regular street demonstrations in Tel Aviv since the start of the year.

Alon Pinkas, a political commentator and retired Israeli diplomat, said he doubted McCarthy's outreach to Netanyahu would help land the prime minister an Oval Office visit. McCarthy's "sycophantic relationship with Trump" has rendered him "a voodoo doll" for the White House and most Democrats, Pinkas wrote in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, which is critical of Netanyahu.

"His pledge, or threat, to invite Netanyahu to D.C. if Biden doesn't do so may be the Israeli premier's desperate attempt to get himself to Washington. However, it may well end up being counterproductive," Pinkas said. "What it does is further identify Netanyahu solely with the Republicans in direct confrontation with Biden."

Asked about McCarthy's Israel visit, Biden administration officials said that they were aware of the speaker's remarks, but reiterated that no Netanyahu visit to the White House was on the books.

"Israeli leaders have a long tradition of visiting Washington," National Security Council spokesman John F. Kirby said, noting the years of friendship Biden and Netanyahu have shared.

Kirby said he expected a Netanyahu visit "at some point," but that the administration would continue "frank discussions" with Israel about the judiciary reforms and other actions that could impinge on the rights of secular Jews and minorities.

At the State Department, where criticisms of Netanyahu's policies have been few but sharp, officials were similarly noncommittal. State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said he would not engage in "a hypothetical" when asked whether Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken would meet with Netanyahu if he were in town at McCarthy's behest.

"We obviously remain in close touch with our Israeli partners at all levels," Patel said. "Our relationship and our partnership with Israel is deep-rooted. ... We will continue to engage them, and I don't have any visits or anything to preview."

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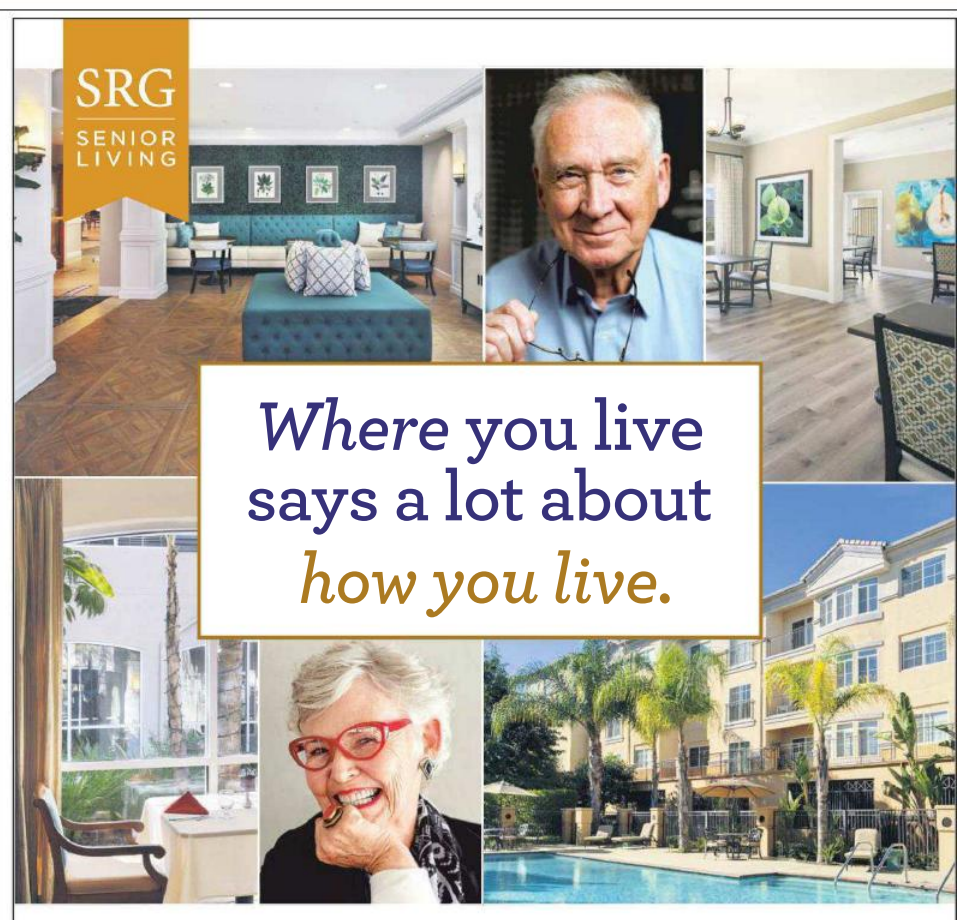

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Pressure building on Feinstein to tell more

TING SHEN Bloomberg

SEN. DIANNE Feinstein in a U.S. Capitol elevator in January 2021. The California Democrat released a statement saying the Judiciary Committee has approved most of the judges up for a vote during her absence.

[**Feinstein,** from A1]
judges, approve Biden Cabinet nominees and potentially avert a debt ceiling default. Senators must be at the Capitol to vote, and are not allowed to do so remotely. The predicament has put into stark relief the challenge of balancing a lawmaker's privacy against the public's right to know about the health of their representatives.

There should be "the highest degree of transparency of the senator's medical condition," said Norm Eisen, an ethics official in the Obama White House who now works at the Brookings Institution, in written comments. That accounting, he said, must involve a "full medical briefing on her condition and on its prognosis; the best and honest judgment whether she'll be able to return, and if so, when; and for how long she'll be able to work everyday."

"Frankly, it is inexplicable to me that a long-standing public servant and leader like Sen. Feinstein would compromise the public interest in this way" by withholding that critical information, Eisen said.

Feinstein spokesman Adam Russell said the senator "has been transparent that her absence from Washington is due to a shingles diagnosis" and related complications. After a brief hospitalization in February, Feinstein has been recuperating at home in San Francisco.

Last month, Feinstein requested a Democratic member temporarily replace her on the Senate Judiciary Committee to allay concerns about a backlog of judge confirmations, but Republicans blocked that effort.

"Like any serious medical condition, shingles does not follow a straight line from diagnosis to recovery," Russell said. "She has been unable to provide an exact timeline for her return to Washington because that is contingent upon her doctor's advising her that it's safe for her to travel."

On Thursday, Feinstein released a statement in response to the criticism that she is impeding the confirmation of judges, pointing out that the Judiciary Committee has approved most of those who have come forward during her absence.

"I'm disappointed that Republicans on the committee are blocking a few from moving forward," Feinstein said. "I'm confident that when I return to the Senate, we will be able to move the remaining qualified nominees out of committee quickly and to the Senate floor for a vote."

Feinstein's office declined to provide a briefing or written report from her doctor to The Times.

Such an independent assessment is crucial in cases of long-term health challenges, said former Sen. Barbara Boxer, the California Democrat who served in the Senate with Feinstein for more than 20 years.

"Should there be transparency? I say yes. I think it's better for the people who voted for you, who put their trust in you," Boxer said.

Health has traditionally been a taboo topic in the Senate, where deference to seniority remains strong. When late Sen. Strom Thurmond, a Republican from South Carolina, continued to serve until his late 90s, questions of his fitness and mobility were mostly muted. Colleagues of nonagenarian Sen. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia similarly tread lightly in speaking about his ailments — including a six-week hospitalization for a staph infection — even as his deteriorating condition was apparent as he was wheeled onto the Senate floor to cast decisive votes to pass the Affordable Care Act in 2009.

Lawmakers from both parties suggested the more open speculation about Feinstein's health was motivated by a sexist double standard.

"I've never seen them go after a man who was sick in the Senate in that way," former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Feinstein's fellow San Francisco Democrat, told reporters last week.

But others say the scrutiny is a natural byproduct of a slimly divided Senate.

When Sen. Thad Cochran, a Republican from Mississippi, was sidelined for prolonged periods in 2017 and 2018 due to a urinary tract infection and other maladies, his absence made it difficult for his party to cut taxes, a top legislative priority. The issue was compounded with Sen. John McCain of Arizona being away from the Senate for cancer treatment — leaving Republicans without two crucial votes.

"Having two senators sick with such a narrow majority in the Senate, it drew a lot more attention than had we had a little more cushion," said Brad Smith, Cochran's former chief of staff.

The opacity around Feinstein's condition also stands in contrast with information released by Sen. John Fetterman's office when he was hospitalized this year for depression. The Pennsylvania Democrat, who had been criticized during his campaign last year for not fully disclosing at first the severity of a stroke he suffered on the eve of the primary, was heralded for his uncommon transparency around mental health issues. His staff also released pictures of the senator at various points during his hospitalization at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

In Washington, specific clues about Feinstein's status has been unearthed in unconventional ways. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) did not answer questions about Feinstein during a news conference Tuesday, but prepared notes he carried to the lectern that were captured in a Politico photo indicated that he had spoken with her recently and expected her to return in the coming days.

"I spoke with Sen. Feinstein yesterday. We are both hopeful she can return next week," read the notes.

A Schumer spokesman confirmed to The Times that what was in the notes was accurate.

Feinstein's spokesperson said that the two senators spoke on Sunday but that there was still no timeline for her return to the Senate.

Most senators who spoke with The Times said they hadn't spoken with Feinstein directly in recent weeks and were getting their information from Schumer.

"I've heard she's recovering and I heard she's gonna be back soon. So I'm very excited to see her," said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.).

Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), who serves on the Judiciary Committee with Feinstein and began his political career as a member of her staff, said he exchanged messages with her late last week but hadn't connected directly.

He said that he knew Feinstein was "frustrated that the recovery hasn't happened more quickly."

"She's eager to get back, I know that," he said.

In California, the state's top Democrats, including those running to succeed Feinstein in the Senate, were largely circumspect about whether she was sufficiently keeping her constituents informed.

Rep. Barbara Lee of Oakland, a Senate contender, "believes that Sen. Feinstein's health should be everyone's primary concern and that she and her family deserve privacy," said her campaign spokeswoman, Katie Merrill. She declined to detail any contact Lee has had with the senator.

A spokesperson for Rep. Adam B. Schiff of Burbank, another Senate candidate, said his staff "has been in touch with the senator's staff, but we don't have anything to share about those conversations at this time — it is up to the senator or her staff to share relevant information with constituents."

Campaign officials for Rep. Katie Porter of Irvine, another Democrat vying for the Senate seat, did not respond to questions about transparency; neither did a spokesman for Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Despite the lack of details, Feinstein's health is frequently a topic of speculation at California political events, said Los Angeles County Democratic Party Chair Mark Gonzalez. "People are concerned — for her health and also our majority in the Senate," he said.

Those concerns prompted Indivisible California, the progressive group that has often clashed with Feinstein, to release an open letter last month calling on the senator to resign. The letter, signed by 64 local chapters that represent more than 100,000 members, spurred the 40-minute Zoom meeting on Wednesday with Feinstein's state director, Peter Muller; her Northern California director, Joanne Hayes-White; and her field representative, Sam Yankovich.

During the meeting, Crane and others asked about Schumer's suggestion that Feinstein could be back as soon as next week.

"Sen. Schumer may have more information than I do, but we have not provided any guidance to suggest that she will be back next week, other than she wants to be back," Muller said, according to Crane's recollections and notes from the meeting.

Muller acknowledged the difficulty of the moment while also saying that some of the reporting about Feinstein's absence has been misleading by exaggerating the impact it has had on Senate Democrats' ability to act on judicial confirmations. Last week, the Senate confirmed seven circuit court judges who had bipartisan support.

Crane said that during the Zoom meeting they were told Feinstein's primary care physician is meeting with her at least once a week. They were also told that Hayes-White, who previously was the chief of the San Francisco Fire Department, has been visiting with her regularly.

"One of the challenges is, it is a long trip to make that five-hour flight. The No. 1 priority is to recover well enough to make the trip," Hayes-White told the representatives of Indivisible, according to Crane.

The demand for more information may be especially hard for Feinstein, her allies acknowledge, given that more discretion had been afforded to senators in the past.

"It's very hard for those of us who grew up in a world that had much more privacy," Boxer said. "But this is a unique circumstance because of the situation in the U.S. Senate that is so perilously and closely divided."

Times staff writers Mason and Oreskes reported from Los Angeles. Special correspondent Joseph reported from Washington.

Suspect charged in Atlanta shooting

Records show he faces one count of murder and four counts of aggravated assault.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEX SLITZ Associated Press

AUTHORITIES gather near the medical office in Atlanta where a gunman shot five women, killing one.

ATLANTA — The suspect in a mass shooting in Atlanta that left one woman dead and four others wounded has been charged with one count of murder and four counts of aggravated assault, Fulton County Jail records show.

Deion Patterson waived his first court appearance Thursday, a day after police say he opened fire in the waiting room of an Atlanta medical practice. Authorities swarmed the city's Midtown neighborhood shortly after noon Wednesday in search of the shooter. Patterson, 24, was captured in Cobb County, just northwest of Atlanta, after several residents there called 911 to report seeing someone who matched his description.

Patterson was being held without bond. Shawn Hoover, an attorney appointed to represent him, said he met with Patterson on Thursday morning.

"He is a veteran and suffers from apparent mental health issues," Hoover wrote in an email. "My team is investigating the details and circumstances of the charges to provide him with zealous, effective, and timely representation."

Atlanta Deputy Police Chief Charles Hampton Jr. declined Wednesday to discuss any details of the investigation or a possible motive, saying, "Why he did what he did, all of that is still under investigation."

Patterson had an appointment at a Northside Medical building and opened fire shortly after arriving in an attack that lasted about two minutes, law enforcement officials said at a news conference Wednesday night.

Patterson then went to a Shell gas station and took a pickup truck that had been left running and unattended, authorities said.

Amy St. Pierre, 39, was pronounced dead at the scene. She left behind a husband and two young children.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she worked, "is deeply saddened by the unexpected loss of a colleague," spokesperson Benjamin Haynes said in a statement.

St. Pierre has done research aimed at reducing pregnancy-related deaths, according to a 2021 research report she co-wrote. That research involved a CDC program called "Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality." A key aim of the initiative is to work toward "the elimination of preventable maternal mortality in the United States."

"She was driven by compassion, both in her work in the field of maternal mortality, and in her everyday life," her family said in a statement issued Thursday. "Amy was selfless always, she wanted more for others but never for herself. Generous supporter of worthy causes, she was the social conscience of our family."

Patterson used a semiautomatic handgun to shoot St. Pierre, according to arrest warrants released on Thursday. He also shot Alesha Hollinger in the face, and fired multiple shots into the abdomen area of Jazzmin Daniel, the documents state. Another woman, Lisa Glynn, was shot in her abdomen area as well; and Georgette Whitow was shot in the arm, the records show.

The four women who survived remained hospitalized Thursday, authorities said. Three were in the intensive care unit, said Dr. Robert Jansen, chief medical officer at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Daniel has been able to communicate with her loved ones by using her hands and fingers, her father said Thursday.

"She just keeps giving us the thumbs-up," Quentin Daniel told the Associated Press.

Daniel, 25, is an intake nurse at the Midtown clinic, where she is among the first to interact with patients at the clinic, her father said. She is to be transferred to the Northside hospital just north of the city on Friday. She's also missing her 1-year-old child, who is being cared for by relatives, he said.

Jansen said he's been able to speak to two of the women, who told him they are grateful for the care they're getting, "but they realize that this is a horrific event and the fact that they were in a healthcare facility just makes it worse."

"Physically, they all have a ways to go," Jansen said. "I think psychologically and mentally, we have to also remember that, the impact on them and their families. You know, you can't underestimate how traumatic this is. And they have a long way to go."

Patterson was arrested after 911 calls from residents near the Atlanta Braves' stadium.

The suspect's mother, Minyone Patterson, had accompanied him to the medical office, police said.

She told AP by phone that her son, a former Coast Guardsman, had "some mental instability going on" from medication that he began taking Friday.

McDonald's store used 10-year-old workers, feds say

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Two 10-year-olds are among 300 children who worked at McDonald's restaurants illegally, a U.S. Labor Department investigation of franchisees in Kentucky found.

Agency investigators found the 10-year-olds received little or no pay at a McDonald's in Louisville, the Labor Department said. The franchisee for the Louisville restaurant was among three McDonald's franchisees fined $212,000 in total by the department.

Louisville's Bauer Food LLC, which operates 10 McDonald's locations, employed 24 minors under the age of 16 to work more hours than legally permitted, the agency said. Among those were two 10-year-olds. The agency said the children sometimes worked as late as 2 a.m. and were not paid.

"Below the minimum age for employment, they prepared and distributed food orders, cleaned the store, worked at the drive-thru window and operated a register," the Labor Department said Tuesday, adding that one child also was allowed to operate a deep fryer, which is a prohibited task for workers under 16.

Franchise owner-operator Sean Bauer said the two 10-year-olds cited in the Labor Department's statement were visiting their parent, a night manager, and weren't employees.

"Any 'work' was done at the direction of — and in the presence of — the parent without authorization by franchisee organization management or leadership," Bauer said Wednesday in a statement.

Federal regulations put strict limits on the types of jobs children can perform and the hours they can work.

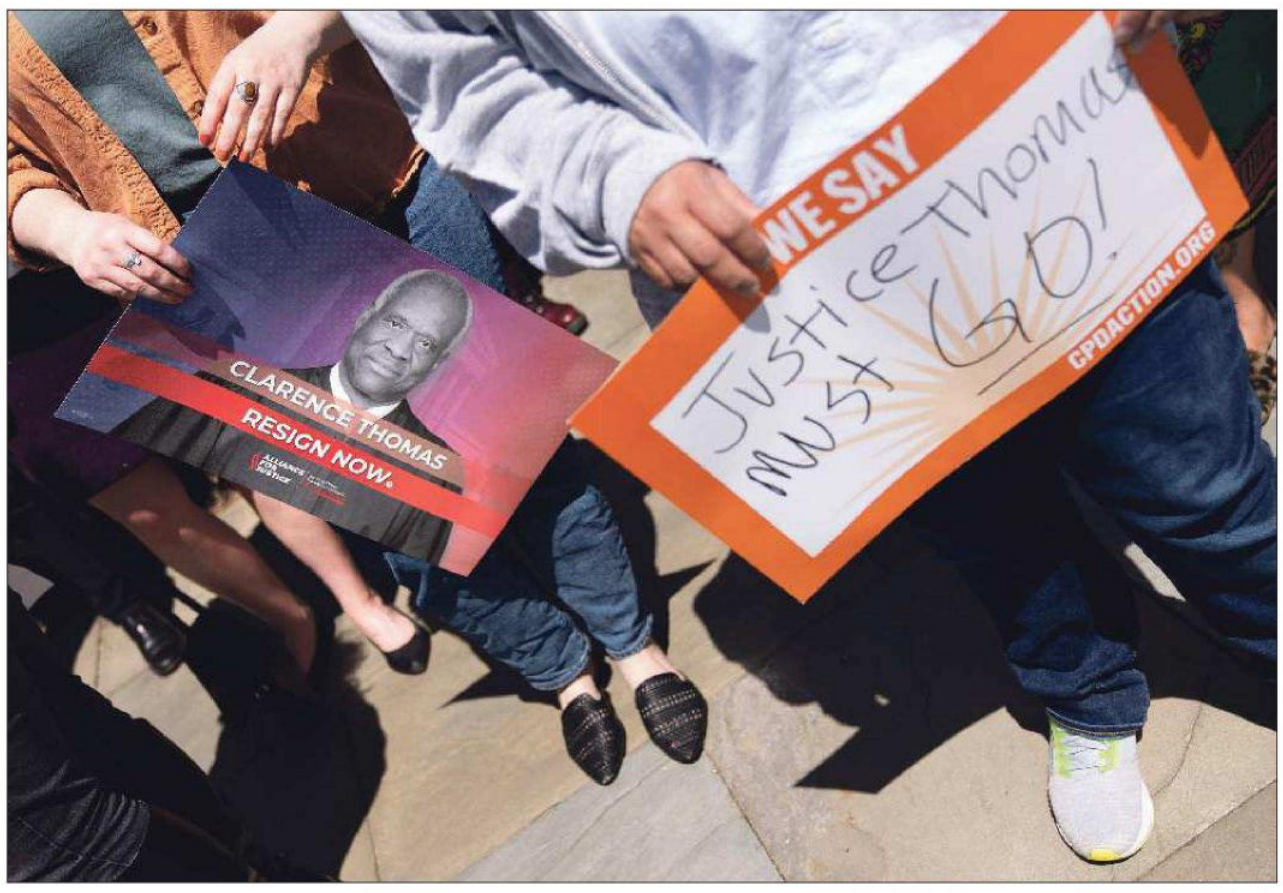
The Kentucky investigations are part of an ongoing effort by the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division to stop child labor abuses in the Southeast.

"Too often, employers fail to follow the child labor laws that protect young workers," said Karen Garnett-Civils, the division's director. "Under no circumstances should there ever be a 10-year-old child working in a fast-food kitchen."

In addition, Walton-based Archways Richwood LLC and Louisville-based Bell Restaurant Group I LLC allowed minors ages 14 and 15 to work beyond allowable hours, the department said. Archways Richwood didn't immediately return a call seeking comment, and Brdancat Management Inc., the parent of Bell Restaurant Group, declined to comment.

"These reports are unacceptable, deeply troubling and run afoul of the high expectations we have for the entire McDonald's brand," McDonald's USA spokeswoman Tiffanie Boyd said.

Thomas testing chief justice's ethical ideal



STEFANI REYNOLDS AFP/Getty Images

ACTIVISTS PROTEST last month on Capitol Hill. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. has rebuffed calls for the high court to create a code of ethics after news of Justice Clarence Thomas' accepting gifts sparked an uproar.

[**Ethics,** from A1]
ty and impartiality of the judiciary."

But equally important to Roberts has been maintaining the strict independence of the Supreme Court. And with each new revelation about Thomas, those ideals are becoming harder to reconcile.

He said that though the judicial code provides "guidance," the justices are not bound by it. Roberts so far has rebuffed calls for the court to create its own code of ethics and questioned whether Congress has the constitutional authority to do so.

Last week he declined an invitation from the Senate Judiciary Committee to speak about possible ethics reforms for the high court, citing the "separation of powers" between the government's judicial and legislative branches.

In Roberts' view, ethics begin and end with the conscience of each individual justice.

"At the end of the day, no compilation of ethical rules can guarantee integrity," he wrote in 2011. "Judges must exercise both constant vigilance and good judgment to fulfill the obligations they have all taken since the beginning of the republic."

But although such well-intended and high-minded ideals may have served the court in the past, some legal experts fault Roberts for not doing more.

"The court should police itself, and it has the tools to do it," said Amanda Frost, a University of Virginia law professor. "He could take the lead and should take the lead, but he hasn't."

New York University law professor Stephen Gillers agreed the court needs a binding ethics code.

"We used to rely on respect for norms and self-restraint — on officials' treating our institutions, including the court, with respect and care, [even] when there is no rule," Gillers said. "The lesson of the Trump years is that this reliance is inadequate."

One obstacle may well be Roberts' colleagues on the bench. It is not clear whether Roberts would have the support of the other justices to impose a stricter ethics code, even if he wanted one.

On the right, the recent uproar over Thomas and his wife is seen as politically motivated, not ethics. It's a view probably shared by some of the court's conservatives.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) on Tuesday called it "an unseemly effort by the Democratic left to destroy the legitimacy of the Roberts Court. ... There's a very selective outrage here."

Conservatives note that poor judgment that undercuts the appearance of impartiality is not limited to one side of the political spectrum.

For much of her career, the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a headline speaker at annual events for the NOW Legal Defense Fund, even though the group regularly filed friend-of-the-court briefs on women's rights issues.

In the summer of 2016 when Donald Trump was running as the Republican nominee for president, she criticized him in a series of interviews.

"He's a faker ... and really has an ego. How has he gotten away with not turning over his tax return?" she asked, a question that would later come to the high court.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) said the ethics issue should not be partisan. He said it was troubling that judges, federal employees and members of Congress are bound by strict rules, and they can be fined or punished for violations, but the Supreme Court has exempted itself.

"The highest court in the land should not have the lowest ethical standards. That reality is driving a crisis in public confidence in the Supreme Court," he said.

After declining to testify before the Senate, Roberts instead sent a general "Statement on Ethics Principles and Practices" that was signed by all nine justices.

It "reaffirms" their commitment to abide by the ban on most outside income, except for teaching and writing books, and the requirement to disclose gifts. It noted the recent "clarification on the scope of the 'personal hospitality' exemption" to the disclosure rule for gifts.

That was the only reference to the recent revelations by ProPublica that Thomas and his wife had for many years taken free and undisclosed vacations aboard a private jet and yacht with Harlan Crow, a Texas real estate billionaire and Republican donor.

It turned out that Thomas had adopted a conveniently narrow interpretation of the federal ethics law. It said judges, justices and federal employees must disclose the source and value of significant gifts they received, but not for "any food, lodging or entertainment received as personal hospitality."

Thomas explained that early in his career, he had sought guidance from unnamed colleagues and concluded that free international travel on private jets and yachts was covered by the exemption for "food, lodging or entertainment." In March, the Judicial Conference issued new guidance to make clear that such travel is not shielded from disclosure.

Thomas described Crow and his wife as "among our dearest friends." However, Crow said he introduced himself to the conservative justice in 1996, five years after he had ascended to the high court.

Crow also figured in an earlier controversy that involved Thomas, his wife and the Supreme Court.

In 2009, when tea party groups were fighting the Obama administration, Ginni Thomas launched a group called Liberty Central. It was later revealed that Crow funded it with a $500,000 contribution.

A year later, as conservatives mounted a legal challenge to Obamacare, Liberty Central's website posted an attack on the "unconstitutional" law.

"With the U.S. Constitution on our side and the hearts and minds of the American people with us, freedom will prevail," the group said.

When the Supreme Court agreed in 2011 to rule on the law's constitutionality, Common Cause said Thomas should recuse himself, citing his wife's public role in fighting against the healthcare legislation.

At the same time, some Republicans argued that Justice Elena Kagan should step aside because she was President Obama's solicitor general when the healthcare law was adopted.

Federal law leaves such questions of recusal in the hands of individual justices, saying a justice "shall disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

Both justices refused to withdraw, and in his year-end report, the chief justice said he had "complete confidence in the capability of my colleagues" to decide for themselves whether to withdraw from a case.

More recently, Thomas has faced calls to recuse himself because of his wife's role in urging the Trump White House to fight the 2020 election won by Joe Biden.

"Help This Great President stand firm, Mark !!!" she wrote in an email to then-White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows. "The majority knows Biden and the Left is attempting the greatest Heist of our History."

Thomas did not step aside from deciding the Republican appeals that followed Trump's loss, or challenges to documents sought by the House Jan. 6 Committee that investigated the attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Out of office, Trump sued to block the Library of Congress from turning over White House documents to the House committee. Some speculated they could include more messages from Ginni Thomas.

Trump lost in the lower courts, and the Supreme Court turned down his appeal with only one dissent. It came from Clarence Thomas.

Last week, however, the court said nothing would change on recusals.

"Individual Justices, rather than the court, decide recusal issues," they said in the statement sent to Durbin. "If the full court or any subset of the court were to review the recusal decisions of individual justices, it would create an undesirable situation in which the court could affect the outcome of a case by selecting who among its members may participate."

The revelations about Thomas' acceptance of expensive gifts, private jet travel, luxury vacations, and most recently, tuition payments at his grandnephew's private boarding school have spawned more news stories alleging supposed ethical lapses by other justices.

The chief justice's wife, Jane, stepped away from her law practice to avoid potential conflicts with her husband's work and instead took a job as a recruiter placing attorneys in law firm jobs. She was criticized because those law firms in turn have cases that go to the high court.

Justice Neil M. Gorsuch faced criticism because he and three co-owners sold their fishing cabin in Colorado for less than the asking price shortly after he moved to Washington. He disclosed the ownership sale as required, but he did not name the buyer, a prominent law partner who has said he did not know Gorsuch or that he was a part-owner when he made his offer.

Contrary to these stories, the broader problem facing the court is not corruption, but the justices appearing as partisans and ideologues.

In past decades, the justices carefully avoided public appearances that would undermine what the code of conduct described as the appearance of impartiality.

That was the rule across the ideological spectrum, from conservative Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist to moderates like Anthony M. Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor and liberals like John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter or William J. Brennan Jr.

But most of today's justices no longer feel bound by that rule of restraint. Having been nominated and confirmed in highly partisan battles, they appear willing to show their allegiance to their supporters.

The court's conservative justices go to the Federalist Society's annual banquet to be applauded and celebrated, while most of the liberals — but not Kagan — appear at the meetings of the progressive American Constitution Society.

Not long after being confirmed by the Republican-controlled Senate, Justices Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett journeyed to Kentucky to appear with Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

"My goal today is to convince you that this court is not comprised of a bunch of partisan hacks," Barrett said, even though her appearance may have undercut the message.

4 Proud Boys are guilty of sedition

NOAH BERGER Associated Press

FORMER Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio, shown in 2019, was convicted Thursday of seditious conspiracy in connection with the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol.

[**Extremists,** from A1]
charge carries a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

"The Justice Department will never stop working to defend the democracy to which all Americans are entitled," Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland told reporters after the verdict.

Tarrio, behind bars since his March 2022 arrest, didn't appear to show emotion as the verdict was read. He hugged one of his lawyers and shook the hand of the other before leaving the courtroom. A few of the people sitting among the defendants' relatives wiped away tears as the verdict was read.

The verdict comes after a trial that took more than twice as long as expected, slowed by bickering, mistrial motions and revelations of government informants in the group. Securing the conviction of Tarrio, a high-profile leader who wasn't at the riot, could embolden the Justice Department as a special counsel investigates Trump for his potential role related to the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Special counsel Jack Smith in recent weeks has sought the testimony of many people close to Trump. They include former Vice President Mike Pence, who testified before a grand jury last week, probably giving prosecutors a key first-person account about certain conversations and events in the weeks before the riot.

Tarrio was a top target of what has become the largest Justice Department investigation in American history. He led the neo-fascist group — known for street fights with left-wing activists — when Trump infamously told the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by" during his first 2020 debate with Biden.

Tarrio wasn't in Washington on Jan. 6 because he had been arrested two days earlier in a separate case and ordered out of the capital city. But prosecutors said he organized and directed the attack by Proud Boys who stormed the Capitol that day.

In addition to Tarrio, a Miami resident, three other Proud Boys were convicted of seditious conspiracy: Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs and Zachary Rehl.

Tarrio, Nordean, Biggs and Rehl were also convicted of obstructing Congress' certification of Biden's electoral victory and obstructing law enforcement as well as two other conspiracy charges. The four were cleared of an assault charge stemming from Pezzola, who stole an officer's riot shield.

Rehl's attorney, Carmen Hernandez, said her client "continues to maintain his innocence." Lawyers for Biggs and Pezzola declined to comment. An attorney for Tarrio declined to comment.

Prosecutors told jurors the group viewed itself as "Trump's army" and was prepared for "all-out war" to stop Biden from becoming president.

The Proud Boys were "lined up behind Donald Trump and willing to commit violence on his behalf," prosecutor Conor Mulroe said in his closing argument.

The backbone of the government's case was hundreds of messages exchanged by Proud Boys in the days leading up to Jan. 6 that show the group peddling Trump's false claims of a stolen election and trading fears over what would happen when Biden took office.

As Proud Boys swarmed the Capitol, Tarrio cheered them on from afar, writing on social media: "Do what must be done."

"Make no mistake," Tarrio wrote in another message. "We did this."

Kunzelman and Whitehurst write for the Associated Press.

Ex-FBI agent held on Jan. 6 charges

Federal authorities say he joined the mob and cheered the rioters attacking police.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A former FBI supervisory agent has been arrested and charged for joining a mob storming the U.S. Capitol, where he cheered on rioters attacking police officers, federal authorities said.

The former agent, Jared Wise, repeatedly shouted, "Kill 'em!" as he watched rioters assaulting officers outside the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, according to an FBI agent's affidavit.

Wise was arrested Monday in Oregon and charged with misdemeanors including entering or remaining in a restricted building or grounds, court records show.

Wise, 50, worked as a special agent or supervisory special agent for the FBI from 2004 through 2017, according to the affidavit. The FBI didn't respond to a request for more information about Wise's work for the bureau.

"We refer you to the public court documents and don't have any further comment," an FBI statement says.

The FBI says security camera video captured Wise inside the Capitol on Jan. 6, when a mob of then-President Trump's supporters violently disrupted the joint session of Congress certifying Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

Wise clapped his hands and raised his arms "in triumph" after he entered the building through the Senate wing door, the affidavit says. He left the building about nine minutes after entering.

Nearly two hours later, police body camera video showed Wise berating police officers outside the Capitol and repeatedly shouting, "Shame on you!"

"You guys are disgusting," he told them. "I'm former law enforcement. You're disgusting. You are the Nazi. You are the Gestapo. You can't see it."

The FBI says it received a tip in January 2022 that Wise had entered the Capitol on Jan. 6.

A federal magistrate judge ordered Wise's release from custody after his initial court appearance in Eugene, Ore., on Monday.

Wise lived in New Braunfels, Texas, until June 2022 before moving to Bend, Ore., the affidavit says.

A lawyer for Wise in Oregon didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Five people died and more than 100 officers were injured in the Jan. 6 insurrection. More than 1,000 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Capitol siege.

BUSINESS

ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

Bluesky is like early Twitter: jubilant, unfiltered

BRIAN MERCHANT

JAKUB PORZYCKI NurPhoto

BLUESKY began at Twitter in 2019 as an effort to build a protocol for a decentralized social network — basically, a way to make social media more like email.

The buzziest startup in Silicon Valley in May of 2023 is not an AI outfit or a metaverse play. It's a glitchy copy of Twitter, circa 2013. I spent the last week on the surging social media upstart Bluesky trying to find out why and discovered something alarming: We've entered social media's reboot phase.

Bluesky looks and feels just like Twitter did 10 years ago, and there's a reason for that: It was born in the belly of the bird app. Funded as an in-house initiative by former Chief Executive Jack Dorsey, Bluesky began in 2019 as an effort to build a protocol for a decentralized social network — basically, a way to make social media work more like email, where different clients such as Gmail and Outlook can talk to one another.

When Elon Musk took over, he cut it off from Twitter, and now, ironically, Bluesky may become Twitter's most viable direct competitor. Many have never been more eager to find a Twitter alternative, after all, given all the ways Musk has made it more unpleasant to use. In March, when Bluesky launched in invite-only beta, few had even heard of it. Last week, when thousands of people got those invitations, suddenly, in online and techie circles, at least, AI was on the sidelines, and it was all anyone was talking about.

When I logged on Thursday, it was to the kind of wild, elated scrum that's all but become extinct on mainstream social networks in the 2020s. Every refresh brought genuinely inscrutable memes, posts from an AI duck account that spewed gibberish, and a torrent of nude selfies. There were reconnections between old online friends, an aggressive pile-on of a well-known writer, and wide-eyed celebrity and politician accounts just posting through it all.

Bluesky is shamelessly derivative and rudimentary. Instead of tweets you send "skeets," threads are called ropes and there's no direct messaging. It's a raw and unfiltered flood of content. At its best (and maybe also its worst) social media is like tapping into the live-wire id of a thick slice of humanity. It's funny, thought-provoking, gross, libidinal and infuriating, all at once. That's Bluesky right now.

The best reference point, again, is early-days Twitter; I'm old enough to remember logging on in the late '00s and being lost and faintly dumbstruck by the scene there. Earnest news items ticked past inscrutable jokes that disappeared behind someone getting furious at an airline company. Gleeful, barely controlled chaos.

Being on Bluesky is like that, but, for a lot of users it's paired with a heaping dose of nostalgia for that experience, for what now looks like the golden age of social media. Users love it, I think, because it feels like a homecoming. Even the glitches, such as a bug that lets bots drag you into endless "ropes" — lovingly termed hellthreads — are cheered as communal events. For some reason, one day, everyone posted interminably about "ALF," the 1980s sitcom about a wacky alien.

This kind of jubilant, unhinged environment is what people who spend all day online live for — even if, ultimately, we've all been here before and we have a sense of where it's inevitably going.

It's no accident that the most exuberant and vocal promoters of Bluesky are famous 30-something millennials who are also famously proficient social media users: folks including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, "Star Wars" director Rian Johnson, NBC's Ben Collins, and model Chrissy Teigen. Other major Twitter users — such as the semi-anonymous absurdist comedian Dril, the Washington Post's Taylor Lorenz, CNN's Jake Tapper and the New York Times' Jamelle Bouie — got accounts too, and some have been skeeting a *lot*.

This was Bluesky's greatest coup, along with being open for business as Twitter was jumping its rails. Whether by design or not, it managed to get all of these users in the door at the same time. Insofar as something as infrastructural as a social network can feel like an exclusive, trendy club, Bluesky does, giving users the feeling that first drew so many to social networks in the first place: that sense that you're in a room with a congressperson or a Hollywood star or a major writer, and that no decorum is required to participate — and in fact it would be preferred if you checked it at the door.

It's working. People are reportedly shelling out $400 just to land an invite to jump the velvet rope.

But so far, Bluesky is all vibes and circumstance — the experience has been defined entirely by the community that showed up here, which means it's exceedingly precarious. It's fun if you're a certain kind of terminally online poster or someone who misses the early days of Twitter.

Still — and maybe I'm just a cynical veteran of the blog wars of the 2010s — it's hard for me to imagine spending lots of time on yet another social platform, building up yet another network, performing yet another self. Especially when we still know so little about how the company behind it plans to manage its playground.

Right now, Bluesky is, intentionally, a Twitter clone with a grand vision for infrastructure but not for community. Its chief aim is to build its decentralized protocol that will let others build their own social media sites. I don't get the sense that more than a tiny handful of the current user base — which remains small, comparatively, at 55,000 or so — cares much about that. They like Bluesky because it feels like old Twitter, because they are free to post what they want for the moment, and because Elon Musk is nowhere in sight.

That's more than fine; part of Bluesky's mission is also to try to *make* people care. But it's not obvious how the company plans to govern itself or, say, make money on its decentralized fiefdom. How is it going to try to generate revenue? Is it looking for venture capital? Does it already *have* venture capital? Twitter paid Bluesky $13 million, but it's unclear whether there's additional funding or where it might come from. (Call me a skeptic — and I have engineer friends who like what Bluesky is designing — but I worry that the decentralization structure gives the company an easy way to pass the buck on tough policy calls under the guise of "the tech will solve it, eventually.")

All this feels as though it should be important for both users, who just endured a decade of social media pursuing business models that supercharged toxicity, and the company itself, which seems to prize progressivism and transparency, and is about to face a battery of fresh tests. It should at the very least have detailed plans in place to ensure the safety of its users and the openness of the platform. Ideally it will have more of a vision and ideas about the kind of place it wants to be — and not settle for being a reboot.

Because this frothy honeymoon period isn't going to last. Bluesky got insanely buzzy because a just-small-enough group of internet culture creators who all have relatively compatible politics and pop cultural tastes took over the app at the right time. It's both freewheeling and relatively civil. It's guaranteed to be fleeting.

There have already been a couple of brush-ups with content moderation crises. When the polarizing writer Matt Yglesias signed up, his replies were flooded with people trying to chase him off the platform. One threatened, perhaps jokingly, to kill him with a hammer. That user was banned. Another account that joined over the weekend started harassing trans users; Bluesky's CEO Jay Graber personally made a show of banning that poster too.

Everyone cheered. Her dedication to staking out an active presence on Bluesky is admirable — she routinely engages users asking questions — even if this sort of whack-a-mole strategy is going to last for only so long, as I'm sure she knows. (They did decide to remove all nudes from the "What's Hot" tab, perhaps in a bid to get the prudish Apple to approve the app.) The platform will grow, and the imposition of norms and rules will inevitably alienate some and make others mad, and, as Bluesky users are constantly pointing out, there is a legion of trolls at the gates, licking their chops, waiting to cause mayhem, forcing the kinds of moderation decisions that spoil the party just because they can.

What is Bluesky's strategy then, when the nostalgia-fueled halo of posting like it was 2014 is wearing off, when trolling has begun in earnest, the moderation policies are disappointing everyone, and Twitter's still-formidable network effect is pulling users back into its maw? Will Bluesky be able to stand alone? Or will it go down as a fun diversion, a time when a few thousand of the best Twitter users got to relive their glory days for a while?

Hoping to better understand her thinking around these matters, I skeeted to Graber asking how Bluesky plans to weather the coming days — about its governance, about plans to seek investment or how it might generate revenue — but got no reply.

I knew I was being a buzzkill. On the What's Hot tab, people were sharing thirst traps, mocking Twitter, reveling in the freedom to get weird. I don't blame her for not skeeting back; nobody else did, either. They were too busy posting.

L.A. sees tourists again, but challenges remain

Visitor and spending levels bounce back from the pandemic, but travel from abroad is slower to rebound.

BY HELEN LI

Academy Museum Foundation

THE ACADEMY Museum of Motion Pictures, in the Miracle Mile area, is among the Los Angeles attractions that opened after the pandemic began. Last year, 46.2 million people visited the city and spent $21.9 billion.

Los Angeles tourism reached its highest levels since the COVID-19 pandemic pummeled the travel industry in 2020. Last year, 46.2 million people visited the city and spent $21.9 billion.

According to a report released Thursday by the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board, visitor spending reached 89% of 2019 levels and visitor volumes registered 91% of pre-pandemic levels.

That growth translated to $34.5 billion in overall economic impact to L.A., a figure that accounts for how visitor spending affects job growth and state and local tax revenue, among other factors. About 1 in every 29 jobs in L.A. is supported either directly or indirectly by tourism, according to the report.

Although the L.A. travel industry's recovery has continued to pick up significant momentum in the last year, some hurdles remain. Inflation and a potential recession loom large, international visitors have been slower to return to the city and labor shortages persist in some sectors of the industry.

High global inflation rates have translated into reduced purchasing power for travelers. Direct travel spending in California totaled $134.4 billion in 2022, only 7.2% below pre-pandemic levels in 2019. But factoring in inflation, the true quantity of goods and services purchased by travelers still lags behind 2019 levels by 20.8%, according to a separate travel economic impact report by the nonprofit tourism organization Visit California.

"Inflation is something that we all are watching [to see] what happens with the overall economy. And those recessionary head winds that we all are reading about," said Caroline Beteta, the president and chief executive of Visit California. "But today, travel is very, very strong."

> 'It takes between two and a half and three domestic travelers to equal the spend of just one international traveler.'
>
> — ADAM BURKE, CEO of the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board

At the same time, travel from abroad has been slower to pick up.

Despite significant growth in international visits from the previous year, especially from Mexico, the segment remains at just 9% of total visits in 2022 compared with 15% in 2019.

"International is by far the most lucrative customer segment. The sooner we get international back online, the sooner we'll get more Angelenos back to work," said Adam Burke, president and chief executive of the tourism board. "It takes between two and a half and three domestic travelers to equal the spend of just one international traveler. That's why this is so critical."

Continued challenges have plagued international travel's recovery, especially between China and the U.S. due to ongoing geopolitical tensions and COVID-19 entry and exit protocols. Before the pandemic, the L.A. tourism board estimates that 1.2 million visitors arrived from China in 2019. In 2022, that number was 110,000.

"There's a huge pent-up demand, I believe. And there's just not enough capacity to be able to bring the people back and forth anymore due to the geopolitical restrictions," said Justin Erbacci, chief executive of Los Angeles World Airports. Visa wait times have also been an additional barrier, Burke noted.

Labor shortages in the airline and food and beverage industries are still affecting the recovery as well. Employment directly supported by visitor activity rose 20% in 2022, rebounding to 171,107 jobs, but remains 38,000 below pre-pandemic levels.

Airlines continue to struggle with shortfalls in aircraft, pilots and ground crew, Erbacci said. Last year, airlines canceled dozens of flights at Los Angeles International Airport during the holidays due to crew shortages.

Although travel demand is up, carriers such as United and Southwest have had to ground planes and delay flights due to pilot shortages.

Still, the city is well-positioned for continued recovery, Burke said, as it has evolved as a tourist destination since the pandemic. It boasts new attractions, such as the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures that opened in 2021 and the Super Nintendo World that opened at Universal Studios this year. Professional sports teams, including the Angel City Football Club that began play in 2022, also beckon visitors. The coming years will bring more international sporting events, such as the World Cup in 2026 and the Summer Olympics scheduled for 2028. LAX is also undergoing a $15-billion modernization makeover.

"We're never going to be short of tourists here in California," said Jan Brueckner, an economics professor at UC Irvine who specializes in transportation studies.

Plus, the pandemic helped boost one particular kind of tourist: the "bleisure" traveler, referring to flexible remote workers who come to L.A. for business and add on extra days to their trips for leisure.

"They may go someplace, they may work remotely on Friday, and then they might be with their family and then they do tourist stuff over the weekend, and then go home," Brueckner said. "Evidently, those kinds of trips are bigger than they used to be."

Some studios better equipped for a long strike

[**Strike,** from A1]
their own vulnerabilities. These companies have only recently begun to recover from production shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Cinema chains finally are welcoming back moviegoers with blockbuster releases, including "The Super Mario Bros. Movie."

Signaling Hollywood's tenuous state, Wall Street on Thursday punished Paramount after the company announced that it posted a net loss of $1.1 billion in the first quarter and, in an effort to save cash, it was slashing its dividend to shareholders. Paramount stock plummeted more than 28% to $16.40. Investors didn't care that its Paramount+ streaming service now boasts more than 60 million subscribers.

The sell-off spread to Warner Bros. Discovery, Fox Corp. and Walt Disney Co., which is midway through a wrenching round of layoffs to achieve $5.5 billion in cost savings that Disney Chief Executive Bob Iger has promised.

Investors are worried because traditional media companies still make most of their profits through legacy channels at a time when viewers increasingly are migrating to streaming services. In making the switch, consumers have been abandoning highly profitable cable channels, such as Paramount's MTV, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon.

The strike, which began Tuesday, is widely expected to delay the start of the fall TV season for ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC. Late-night comedy shows, including CBS' "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," and ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" already have gone dark, replaced by reruns.

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

WGA MEMBERS picket at Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank on Wednesday. Warner Bros. Discovery was caught up in a stock sell-off Thursday that also affected Paramount Global, Fox Corp. and Walt Disney Co.

Paramount Chief Executive Bob Bakish expressed confidence that his New York company can ride out the storm.

"Obviously, we've been planning for this," Bakish said of the strike. "We do have many levers to pull and that will allow us to manage through the strike, even if it's for an extended duration. ... We have a lot [of] content in the can."

And in recent years, Bakish said, Paramount has been diversifying to become less dependent on its domestic TV channels and turning more to "offshore production."

WGA leaders have been largely unsympathetic to their employers' financial plight, noting that some wounds were self-inflicted.

Paramount, Warner Bros. Discovery and Disney have been struggling with huge debt loads, the result of costly mergers to bulk up their businesses for the streaming future. Inflation and higher interest rates have given those companies less room to maneuver.

"All this talk about doom and gloom, that's only with us. That's not what they're telling Wall Street," Chris Keyser, co-chair of the WGA's bargaining committee, said this week as he stood near a column of picketing writers outside Fox Studios in Century City.

"Instead of being the kind of companies that take care of workers, and respect the value they create, they are so focused on squeezing every last drop out of that bottom line that they've forgotten where their bread is buttered," Keyser added.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which bargains on behalf of the studios, said the firms are "united in their desire to reach a deal that is mutually beneficial to writers and the health and longevity of the industry."

The alliance dismissed concerns that Hollywood is morphing into a "gig economy," saying the writers have little in common with gig workers.

"Writing jobs come with substantial fringe benefits that are far superior to what many full-time employees receive for working an entire year, including employer-paid health care, employer-paid contributions into a pension plan and eligibility for a paid parental leave program," the AMPTP said Thursday.

Companies had been preparing for a strike, which was authorized in a historic 98% vote last month by the WGA membership.

Analysts are closely watching the labor unrest to determine which companies will be winners — and losers.

In a report this week, Moody's said movie theater operators and broadcast and cable TV channels could be hurt most should the writers' strike extend for several months, as some are predicting. The report said cinema chain owners, "already strained from the COVID pandemic and lighter release schedules," are most at-risk should the movie pipeline be interrupted again.

Broadcast TV and the cable networks, which have been wrestling for the last year with a soft advertising market, face increased uncertainty at a time when they have been losing audiences because of pay-TV cord-cutting.

"They've got a lot of problems that were already happening," Brian Wieser, a consultant and longtime advertising analyst, said. "When consumers get away from turning to their legacy cable-TV program guide, they will be less likely to go back."

Should the traditional TV channels run out of fresh programming, Wieser said, that could accelerate consumers' migration to streaming services — further threatening the broadcast networks and cable channels.

The strike may focus "the minds of advertisers about the challenges that television presents," Wieser added.

A protracted strike would put the squeeze on smaller film production companies and broadcast TV station owners, as well as major media companies, the Moody's report said.

"The consequences of a very long strike could prove bothersome and even dire, under certain circumstances, for the many media companies along the food chain that rely on the scripted entertainment content [that] studios produce and that have minimal diversity, minimal sports rights and news programming," Moody's said.

Then there's Netflix, which some analysts believe could actually benefit from a strike.

"We have a large base of upcoming shows and films from around the world that we could probably serve our members better than most," Netflix Co-Chief Executive Ted Sarandos told investors last month. "We do have a pretty robust slate of releases to take us into a long time."

Netflix shares held steady this week, closing Thursday at $320.78, up 0.5%.

Amazon and Apple also are protected because their film and TV studios represent a minute fraction of their overall businesses, and their programming options exist largely to drive merchandise sales.

Analysts said any damage should be minimal — so long as the strike is short-lived.

"The longer the strike goes, the more problematic it is for the industry at large," said media analyst Rich Greenfield of LightShed Partners. "But it also creates unique opportunities."

For example, companies immediately would save tens of millions of dollars that they otherwise would be spending on production.

"Some [companies] may actually see a short-term boost to cash flow as they did during the pandemic, when production was halted and production working capital spending stopped," the Moody's report said.

Some industry insiders said privately that they wouldn't be surprised to see the strike stretch into July because that's when media companies could start canceling writers' deals under the "force majeure" clauses of contracts.

Those outs — which allow companies to exit deals due to circumstances beyond their control — would enable studios to shed pricey contracts that have borne little fruit.

"We hope we can come to a resolution that works for everyone fairly quickly," Bakish said in Thursday's earnings call. "But it's fair to say there's a pretty big gap today," Bakish said of the positions between the two sides.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks decline on worries about banks

BY STAN CHOE

Stocks sank on Wall Street on Thursday as worries cranked higher about a cracking U.S. banking system.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.7% to add to its loss for the week so far. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 0.9%, and the Nasdaq composite fell 0.5%.

The wildest action was in the financial industry, where shares of PacWest Bancorp tumbled 50.6%. It has been under heavy scrutiny by investors recently after three of the four largest U.S. bank failures in history.

"The important thing to remember is banking is as much about confidence as it is about economics and accounting," said George Bory, chief investment strategist for fixed income at Allspring Global Investments. "We're in a period where confidence is very fragile, arguably damaged. Policymakers are trying to reestablish confidence in the system, and you can just see what's happening in share prices: The confidence hasn't been restored yet."

Wall Street has been hunting for other possible weak links in the system, which could see a swift exodus of customer deposits as the industry contends with much higher interest rates. PacWest said overnight that it's considering its options and that several potential partners and investors have approached it. It also said that its core customer deposits have increased since the end of March.

Fear is running so high in the industry that shares of Western Alliance Bancorp plunged as much as 61% after a report from the Financial Times said the Phoenix-based bank was considering selling its business, among other options. But the company refuted the report, saying there "is not a single element of the article that is true." Its stock pared its drop to a loss of 38.5%.

The wild movements came after Western Alliance tried to reassure investors late Wednesday with a statement saying its deposits are stable and that they rose from Monday to Tuesday.

First Horizon, meanwhile, dropped 33.2% after it and TD Bank Group agreed to call off their merger deal. TD told First Horizon that it did not know when it could get regulatory approvals for the deal.

At the start of this week, regulators seized First Republic Bank and sold most of it to JPMorgan Chase, with hopes that the move could bolster confidence in the industry. Officials have stressed that they see the banking system is sound and secure, but the worries aren't leaving the market.

Banks are dealing with drastically different business conditions now that interest rates are no longer at record lows. The Federal Reserve on Wednesday announced its latest increase, which took its key overnight rate up to a range of 5% to 5.25% from virtually zero early last year.

The Fed has jacked up rates at the fastest pace in decades to knock down high inflation. But it does that by slowing the economy, raising the risk of a recession and hurting prices for investments. Many of the loans made and bonds bought by banks when rates were low are suddenly worth much less in today's market.

The worry now is that even if no more banks topple, the industry's turmoil could cause banks to pull back on their lending. That in itself could act like rate hikes, which would further smother the economy. Many investors believe a recession will hit later this year.

A report Thursday showed that the number of U.S. workers filing for unemployment last week accelerated a bit more than expected. The job market has remained largely resilient, and it's one of the main pillars still propping up the slowing economy. A more comprehensive report Friday will give the latest monthly update on the overall job market.

With worries rising about the economy, the Fed indicated Wednesday that it may be done hiking interest rates for the moment. But the European Central Bank on Thursday pressed on. Its president, Christine Lagarde, said that it has "more ground to cover, and we are not pausing." It did slow the pace of its hikes, raising rates by only a quarter of a percentage point.

Higher rates mean investors are being paid higher yields for owning bonds, which in turn offers more protection for future shakiness in the market, Allspring's Bory said.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,127.74	-286.50	-0.86	-0.06
S&P 500	4,061.22	-29.53	-0.72	+5.77
Nasdaq composite	11,966.40	-58.93	-0.49	+14.33
S&P 400	2,410.22	-41.50	-1.69	-0.83
Russell 2000	1,718.81	-20.47	-1.18	-2.41
EuroStoxx 50	4,286.78	-23.40	-0.54	+13.04
Nikkei (Japan)	29,157.95	+34.77	+0.12	+11.74
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	19,948.73	+249.57	+1.27	+0.85

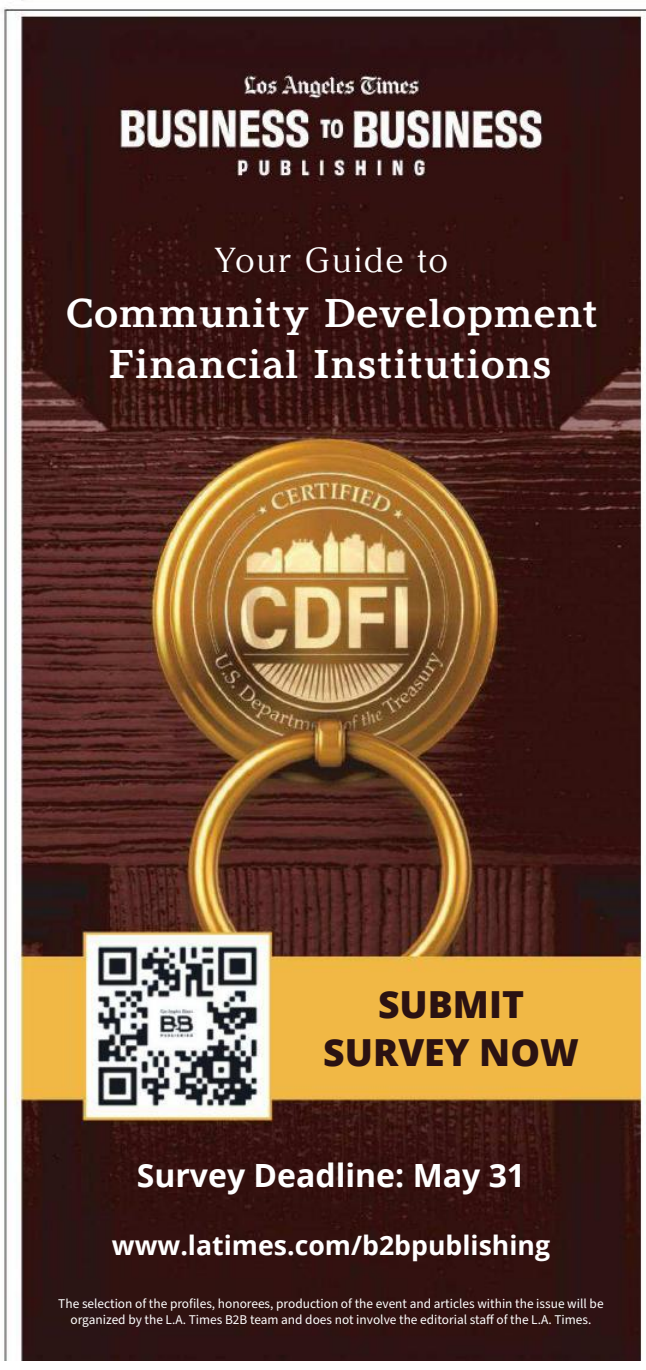
Associated Press

Helping to support stocks despite all the worries has been a largely better-than-feared earnings reporting season. Companies in the S&P 500 are on track to report a second straight quarter of profit drops, but the results have mostly been better than expected.

Kenvue, the consumer health business spun off by Johnson & Johnson, soared 22.3% in its first trading day following its initial public offering. Its brands include Band-Aids, Listerine and Tylenol.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 29.53 points to 4,061.22. The Dow dropped 286.50 points to 33,127.74, and the Nasdaq fell 58.93 points to 11,966.40.

Choe writes for the Associated Press. AP writers Joe McDonald and Matt Ott contributed to this report.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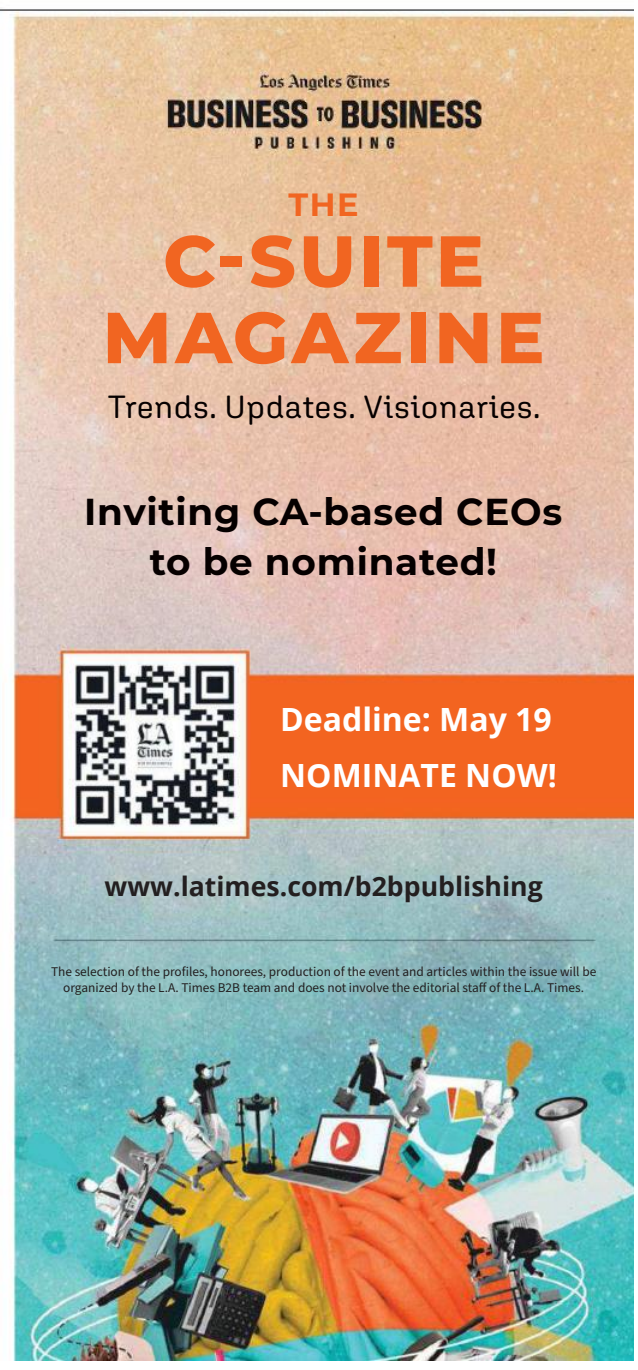
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OPINION

EDITORIALS

The trend that spelled the end of Chevy Bolt?

The shift to bigger and heavier EVs is not good for the planet. Regulators need to push back.

Can we pour one out for the Chevy Bolt?

When the small electric hatchback came onto the market six years ago, it was a game changer: The relatively affordable battery-powered vehicle with 238 miles of range on a single charge demonstrated the mass-market potential for EVs.

The Bolt has only grown in popularity, as its range improved, gas prices spiked and sticker price cuts made it one of the cheapest electric vehicles on the market. If you can find one for the suggested retail price of $26,500, you could get it for less than $20,000 after the $7,500 federal tax credit.

But last week, General Motors Chief Executive Mary Barra announced the company will end production of the Bolt at the end of the year as it reconfigures the Michigan plant where it is made to build large battery-powered pickup trucks. Not only does it echo GM's decision a generation ago to kill off the EV1, its first fully electric vehicle, but the Bolt's demise is a disappointment for consumers and a step backward in the fight against climate change, including President Biden's goal of cutting the nation's air pollution in half by 2030.

Discontinuing a small, lower-cost EV like the Bolt to make room for bigger, more expensive models will make it harder for Americans to afford to go electric. This the wrong direction to be heading when the U.S. needs to replace polluting gas- and diesel-powered cars and trucks with clean, zero-emissions vehicles quickly.

The decision continues a long-standing trend in gas-powered vehicles. Automakers have largely phased out sedans and hatchbacks in favor of gas-guzzling SUVs that bring them fatter profits. Pickup trucks, SUVs and vans now make up nearly 80% of the U.S. auto market. And vehicles keep getting bigger and heavier, weighing more, on average, today than they did in the 1970s. The death of the Bolt signals that trend is unlikely to change with EVs. That's a shame.

"The industry has decided that if they're going to have to make EVs, they might as well make the same gigantic behemoths that they've been making before," said Dan Becker, who directs the Center for Biological Diversity's Safe Climate Transport Campaign.

Electric vehicles are on the whole better for the planet than gas-powered vehicles, but bigger, heavier and less efficient EV models have more environmental impacts than smaller ones. They are more deadly to pedestrians and other drivers, have larger batteries that use more electricity — much of which, for now, is still generated by natural gas and other fossil fuels — and they require more critical minerals and other raw materials to manufacture.

Cody Williams, a Chevrolet spokesperson, said that "Bolt EV was the first long-range, affordable EV offered by a high-volume full-line vehicles manufacturer" and that the company is passing the baton to new models using a new Ultium battery, including the 2024 Equinox EV, a midsize SUV that is "is expected to be one of the most affordable EVs in its class." The automaker has said the Equinox EV will start at "around $30,000."

That's not too reassuring. Consumer groups are right to be worried that discontinuing lower-priced models like the Bolt will reduce options and shut out an entire segment of drivers who want to buy electric cars but won't be able to afford them.

So what can be done to push back against ballooning sizes and price tags?

New auto emissions standards proposed last month by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which would require about two-thirds of new passenger vehicles sold by 2032 to be electric, could be retooled to provide greater incentive for automakers to produce smaller, more efficient and affordable models.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration could adopt standards to push automakers to produce smaller, lighter vehicles that would be less dangerous in crashes. California lawmakers are already considering legislation to study the costs and benefits of charging car owners more for registering heavier vehicles, in recognition of the link between bigger vehicles and pedestrian injuries and deaths.

Rules adopted by California regulators last year to phase out sales of new gas-powered cars by 2035 include incentives to produce cars that sell for about $20,000 or less. But those provisions are optional, and Air Resources Board spokesperson Lys Mendez acknowledged that "there's not a lot we can do to mandate the kind of cars manufacturers provide."

That makes it more important than ever that California continue to modernize and streamline its clean-vehicle rebate programs, which have been hampered by long waiting lists and inconsistent and insufficient funding that have prevented people from buying electric cars. The state recently increased incentives for low and moderate-income Californians to buy zero-emission vehicles, allowing them to apply for rebates of up to $7,500. But more can be done to smooth out these programs, such as making them redeemable at the dealership or point of sale rather than forcing car buyers with limited incomes to wait months for reimbursement.

The Bolt may be on its deathbed. But it doesn't have to stall the EV revolution if we can find ways to push automakers to build more small, zero-emission cars that most people can afford to buy.

L.A.'s stake in the writers' strike

Hollywood writers put down their pens this week to strike for the first time in 16 years. The Writers Guild of America and the film, television and streaming studios could not reach agreement over pay and working conditions amid an industry upheaval that's remade how artists create and viewers consume entertainment.

By all accounts, the writers and studios are far apart on the key issues, and the strike could last for months.

The longer the strike drags on, the more its effects will be felt across the region. Although L.A. is not a one-industry town, the film and television business is among its most important economic engines. The work stoppage, particularly if it's prolonged and shuts down more productions, will extend to people throughout the industry — the camera operators, production assistants and others who work on set — and those who benefit from industry spending, including the restaurants, hotels and dry cleaners.

The 100-day strike in 2007-08 cost the local economy an estimated $2.1 billion and some 37,700 jobs, according to an analysis by the Milken Institute.

Since the last strike, the industry has grown, driven by the streaming revolution, along with its footprint in Los Angeles. Netflix, Apple, Amazon and other media companies have opened studios or expanded their presence in the region to pump out more content for streaming services.

Like the last strike, this one is driven by a transformation in the way we get our entertainment. Fifteen years ago, the industry was adjusting to the emerging world of online entertainment. One of the big fights was over writers' share of DVD sales revenue. There was an understanding at the time that the traditional TV and film model was going to change, along with writers' compensation, but few understood just how much.

Today, the digital revolution and streaming boom have upended the industry, and that's the core of the latest dispute between writers and the studios.

The Writers Guild, which represents more than 11,000 writers for film and television, says the streaming revolution has worsened pay, working conditions and career advancement for screenwriters.

It's been particularly hard for TV writers, who are typically paid per episode. Traditional broadcast television shows have more than 20 episodes per season, providing longer stretches of stable employment. Streaming shows have eight to 12 episodes. And streaming services have increasingly used "mini-rooms" with fewer writers for shorter periods, with writers often dismissed before shooting begins so they don't get the on-set experience necessary to move up in the industry.

Writers worry the trend is turning screenwriting into a "gig economy" job, and the union has pushed for six to 12 writers to create a show and that writers be engaged for at least 10 consecutive weeks, along with higher pay.

Jay L. Clendenin Los Angeles Times

WRITERS GUILD of America members walk the picket line on May 2.

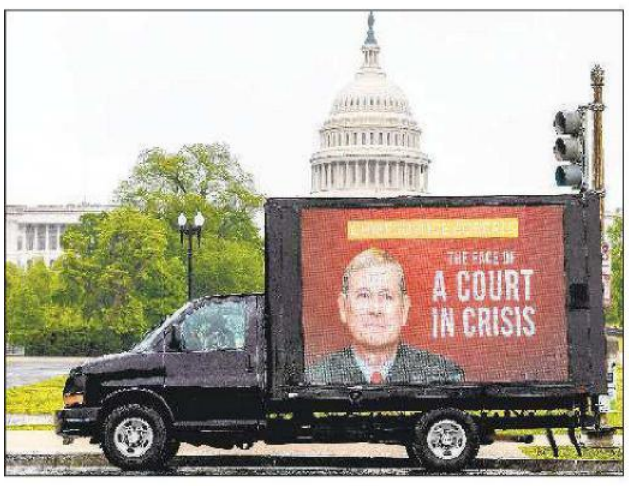
The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which includes Netflix, Amazon, Apple, Disney, Discovery-Warner, NBC Universal, Paramount and Sony, has rejected the guild's requests for a hiring quota and longer employment commitments. Studios went on a spending spree in recent years to launch their streaming services with lots of original programming. Now under pressure from Wall Street to boost profits, they're cutting employees and productions. The companies may have financial incentive to allow the shutdown to continue, at least in the short term, which doesn't bode well for a fast agreement.

The strike has already shut down late-night television talk shows, which rely on writers for daily monologues and skits. On-location shooting slowed in the first months of 2023, in part because some companies were reluctant to start productions that would be disrupted by the strike, according to FilmLA, which handles film permits for the city and county. And it's expected that more shows will pause production as the strike continues and there's no one to write or revise scripts.

California recognizes the entertainment industry's importance to the state and regional economy. Since 2009, lawmakers have allocated more than a billion dollars in tax credits to keep productions from being lured to other states with incentives. The argument for subsidizing Hollywood at the expense of social services, education and other government programs is that the state ultimately benefits from the tax revenue, quality jobs and economic growth that come with being the heart of the entertainment industry.

After the pandemic shutdowns and the slow recovery, nobody wants to see more people lose paychecks. Yet, for writers and others in the entertainment business, this is an existential moment. These aren't easy issues to resolve, but it's vital that media companies and the Writers Guild get back to the negotiating table and try. There's too much at stake, and not just for the studios and the writers. Los Angeles and California also have an interest in the success of the studios — and in the success and livelihood of the people who create the studios' content.

LETTERS



Tasos Katopodis Getty Images for Accountable.US

A MOBILE billboard shows Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. outside the U.S. Capitol on April 28.

Can we trust a court without ethics rules?

Re "Justices overdue for ethics rules," editorial, May 3

Your editorial refers to Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.'s remark implying that critics of the Supreme Court are motivated by displeasure with recent rulings.

I am surely not the first person to identify two distinct points underlying the distrust of the Supreme Court — and, at this time, of three specific justices.

The issuance of fundamentally flawed decisions in mean-spirited opinions is a matter of judicial malfeasance. On the other hand, an overwhelming indifference to the ethical and moral standards expected to apply to all persons — and particularly to judges — goes to something more fundamental than the absence of consistent principles in the court's decisions.

I believe both the judicial and the ethical lapses by this court share a common root — the indifference of specific justices to any standard or principle beyond their own interests and preferences. This lies at the heart of the problem and, on both counts, it disqualifies the justices in question from their positions on the court.

Jack Quirk, Porter Ranch

I am amazed at the GOP attitude toward requiring ethical standards at the Supreme Court.

I sold life insurance and related products for more than 40 years. My industry is held to the highest of ethical standards. Without the public's trust, my job would have been an impossible task to execute.

The Supreme Court has a profound effect on the daily lives of every citizen, so we need to trust the judgment of the court. I have always assumed that this group of jurists also held themselves accountable to the highest ethical standards, and it is shocking to learn otherwise.

Richard Brown
Azusa

::

It is rather disingenuous for the liberal media and the Democrats to now be so distraught that they are demanding new ethics rules for the Supreme Court.

Why is this such a concern now? It certainly didn't appear to be a problem when there was a liberal court majority for so many years.

It is, however, quite obvious that the Democratic Party is furious the court now has a conservative majority, and it wants a way to change that.

Janet Polak
Beverly Hills

::

I have a simple question: If we can't trust the judges' ethics, how can they judge ours?

Marc Scott
Pacific Palisades

Street doctor on forced care

Re "Why California shouldn't increase psychiatric detentions," Opinion, May 1

Rob Wipond believes Senate Bill 43, which would expand on the definition of grave disability in California to attempt to care for our most sick, is too broad. I disagree.

For those at substantial risk of "serious harm," SB 43 will allow them to be involuntarily detained.

Serious harm means "significant deterioration, debilitation, or illness due to the person's failure to meet one or more of the following conditions: Satisfy the need for nourishment; attend to necessary personal or medical care; utilize adequate shelter, be adequately clothed; attend to self-protection or personal safety."

Unless there is an emergency, a court will still be required to order involuntarily treatment. Increasing detainment isn't the goal; rather, increasing our ability to take care of the sickest people wandering our streets is.

It's true that multiple 72-hour holds do not improve one's condition. But sometimes, involuntary care is an important part of the full-care model for stabilization. And, with the expansion of the definition of grave disability, people will be able to get the longer treatment needed for recovery.

Furthermore, with the concomitant increased funding for housing people with serious mental illness, as proposed in Gov. Gavin Newsom's Mental Health Services Act modernization, they will be able to live in the least restrictive housing.

As a street physician for 16 years, I have had to watch many of my patients die unnecessarily. I support increasing care in the least restrictive environment possible, but some people need involuntary care to save their life.

Susan Partovi, MD
Los Angeles

The writer is medical director of Homeless Health Care Los Angeles.

::

Wipond presents much research on the increase of psychiatric detainments across the U.S. and especially California. There are undoubtedly many cases of abuse of detainment for mental health reasons.

However, what he did not address was the revolving door of California's 72-hour, 5150 holds of the same people, often over and over again.

Three days is not treatment, just containment. The patient is then discharged, usually with little or no follow-up.

Are there statistics to evaluate the repeated detainments of our most seriously mentally ill citizens? That would be very helpful in looking at the very complicated issue.

Katherine Reuter
Santa Monica

The writer is a retired psychologist.

::

Caring people wring their hands over how to treat the clearly unstable street folks we see every day. Often, they are regulars, rain or shine.

With high housing costs, we know that mentally ill people are only a portion of the homeless population. Still, one can only suspect they are the most challenging since they appear incapable of managing their own affairs.

Wipond says the rates of mental health detentions have increased. It doesn't seem that way based on what we in L.A. see every day. Unfortunately, Wipond suggests few options to address this unending situation.

Every day, these people have to be somewhere. Right now, they're on the sidewalk.

Geoff Shawcross
Hawthorne

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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OP-ED

EMILIO MORENATTI Associated Press

A LONDON STORE window decorated with photos and a painting of King Charles III.

Like the monarchy or lump it, we must be 'coronation-ready'

By Jemima Hunt

I WAS 13 WHEN a friend's grandmother looked at me and asked, "Roundhead or Cavalier?" — terms coined to denote opposing sides in the English Civil War. It was the first time I'd been asked to consider my relationship with the monarchy.

There was no need. We were monarchists.

My grandfather served at the end of the British Empire, taking a job with the Indian Civil Service; my grandmother was formally presented to the queen as a debutante. As a child, I ate sandwiches on the Mall waiting for Princess Anne's wedding procession to go by. As teenagers, we gathered in front of the television to watch Charles and Di get hitched, in what turned out to be a fairy tale with a uniquely tragic ending.

On that eerie Saturday morning, Sept. 6, 1997, we woke up early to go and stand in Hyde Park. The approach of the gun carriage bearing Princess Diana's coffin was signaled by the clip-clop of hooves and clouds of dust kicked up by the horses on the sandy bridle path known as Rotten Row — originally *Route du Roi*, Road of the King. We had been robbed of our favorite royal.

But we still had the queen, with her corgis and color-coordinated Launer handbags (a brand now favored by the new queen consort, Camilla). The queen was part of our culture, both iconic and as prosaic as a cup of tea.

In 1977, on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee marking 25 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, the Sex Pistols released their antimonarchy anthem: "God save the queen / The fascist regime ... God save the queen / She ain't no human being." It went to No. 2 on the singles chart — Rod Stewart was No. 1 — despite having been banned by the BBC.

The fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, who with Pistols promoter Malcolm McLaren designed the accompanying "God Save the Queen" T-shirt (now part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection), became the darling of the fashion world and earned the title "Queen Viv." The more queens, the merrier.

Everything changed on June 24, 2016, when we woke up to the news that 17.4 million British voters (out of a population of more than 65 million) had voted to take us out of the European Union. "It's not good, is it?" then-Prime Minister David Cameron allegedly said to his Cabinet office minister around 3:30 a.m., when the results came in.

After 43 years in the EU, we were turning back the clock. Overnight we reverted to being allied not with Europe but with our colonial past. A few months later, with perfect timing, Netflix released the first season of "The Crown." The lavish reimagining of Britain's royal past made sure to use the Commonwealth countries, mostly former territories of the Empire, as exotic locations for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to tour.

Who needs the EU when you have the Commonwealth? It was one of the lines used to support the anti-European sentiment being whipped up in certain corners of the media. A former prime minister of a Commonwealth country, Australia, was not impressed.

"I'm struck, as the British Parliament moves towards the endgame on Brexit, with the number of times Australia, Canada, New Zealand and India have been advanced by the Brexiteers in the public debate as magical alternatives to Britain's current trade and investment relationship with the European Union," Kevin Rudd wrote in the Guardian. "Labour and the Conservative remainers should ... support legislation for a second referendum."

But there was no second referendum on Britain's EU membership. Instead, we ended up with our second general election in two years and Conservative Party hard-liners presiding over what has been the worst four years of U.K. government in living memory.

Right now in Britain, depending on the day of the week, teachers, nurses, doctors, train conductors, university lecturers and civil servants, among other professionals, are on strike. What we're seeing is a general strike in everything but name. Britons can't afford to live on stagnating wages, which haven't kept up with inflation. The British economy is estimated to be 5.5% poorer now than it would have been had we stayed in the European Union. Everyone is stressed.

"I've had record numbers of people phoning, inquiring if they can make a booking to see me over recent months," a London psychotherapist with a small private practice told me — while acknowledging that those able to afford such care are better off than most. There's no chance of securing this type of help through the National Health Service.

The hope is that the coming coronation will take people's minds off things. Our new king was once famously quoted as demanding of Diana, "Do you seriously expect me to be the first Prince of Wales in history not to have a mistress?" Now his former mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, will be queen.

In strictly constitutional terms, coronations are not essential. Rather, they are a moment for public celebration. "Get Coronation-Ready," the retailers urge us. Commemorative chinaware is on sale: "Bring your King Charles III Coronation Mug to the street party!"

But is there an appetite for street parties and a royal pageant, which will see the country shut down to allow us to watch the parade of golden carriages and diamond tiaras on TV? According to the campaign group Republic, a recent poll found that as few as 15% of British people are enthusiastic about the coronation. Clive Lewis, a Labor member of Parliament, has called for a reformed monarchy, "scaled down in size and cost, less opaque, more open and fit for purpose."

I conducted a straw poll on one of my mum's WhatsApp groups. "Are your kids excited by the coronation?" I messaged.

"In a word, no," came a reply. "The boys are not excited, although we're all looking forward to the bank holiday."

JEMIMA HUNT is an Oxford-based journalist and literary agent.

Are California's housing reforms doing any good?

By David Garcia and Bill Fulton

A SLEW OF AMBITIOUS housing legislation has emerged recently in states as varied as Maine, Utah and Washington. Many of the proposals aim to loosen zoning restrictions with the goal of addressing housing shortages. Perhaps not surprisingly, California is mentioned in many of the resulting conversations and debates, and not in a positive light.

Policymakers and advocates elsewhere have invoked the Golden State as a warning: We must pass pro-housing policies to avoid ending up like California. One think tank in Montana went so far as to advocate repealing "California-style zoning" to make starter homes more feasible.

At the same time, however, California has become a national model among many of the same housing advocates for its recent efforts to fix past mistakes. Since 2016, state legislators have passed more than 100 housing-related laws with the intent of encouraging the construction of more affordable and market-rate homes. These laws have fundamentally changed the landscape of housing rules and regulations throughout the state and helped inspire similar reforms in other places.

A new law to allow accessory dwelling units in Maine draws on California's example, and pending legislation in Oregon would create local housing targets similar to California's goals for regions and cities. But even as advocates and lawmakers around the country echo our reforms, a key question remains: Are California's new laws actually producing more housing here?

The short answer is no. In the aggregate, despite the deluge of legislation, annual building permits have remained stubbornly stagnant at just over 100,000 homes annually for the last few years — well below the 180,000 a year state officials say we need to keep up with demand. Meanwhile, homelessness has only increased statewide, and rents and home prices remain at historic highs.

But those numbers don't tell the whole story. And in fact, many of the recently passed laws have had a clear, positive effect.

Reforms to ease restrictions on accessory dwelling units — so-called granny flats, backyard cottages and other secondary dwellings — have led to a significant increase in this type of housing. Just six years ago, such units made up an insignificant share of home building; today, they account for 1 in 5 building permits.

Similarly, legislation streamlining California's notoriously lengthy approval processes has helped get more housing built faster, particularly affordable and mixed-income developments. Enhancements to the state's density bonus programs, which allow developers to add more units to a project if some are designated as below market rate, have also helped.

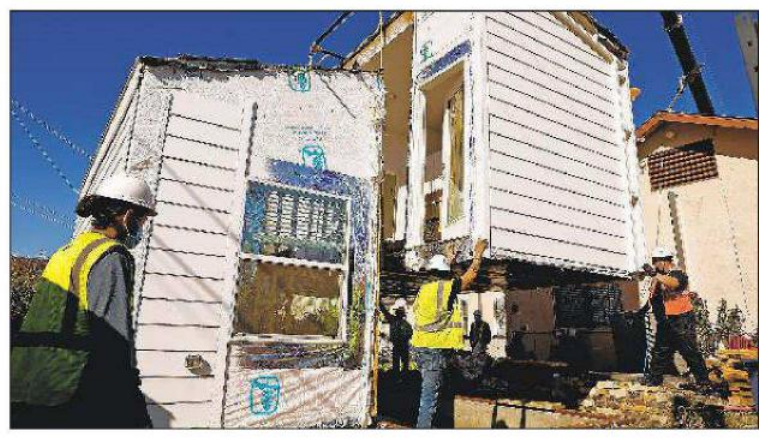
Other changes are setting the table for significant new home construction in (we hope) the near future. Specifically, technical but critical changes to the arcane California laws and regulations that govern local housing production, such as the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, the Housing Element Law and the Housing Accountability Act, have forced cities to plan for substantially more housing in more realistic ways. These reforms have also taken away many of the tools used to delay and block approval and construction of housing.

While not necessarily headline-grabbing, all these changes signal an important shift in the ways cities and counties do their part to plan for and actively encourage new home building — as evidenced by the Los Angeles City Council's vote this week to zone for 135,000 more units in Hollywood and downtown. And some cities have embraced this shift, treating state-level requirements as a floor, not a ceiling. San Diego, for example, has expanded on baseline accessory dwelling unit and density bonus requirements while empowering staff to embrace a culture of "yes" when it comes to getting housing approved.

California's housing crisis should indeed serve as a cautionary tale for other states, a warning to increase supply before it's too late. Despite the recent reforms, broader challenges still threaten to stymie California's apparent progress, among them stubbornly high construction costs and uncertain economic conditions.

But even if it takes some time to realize tangible results, the important work of creating a new housing paradigm in California should not be discounted. We are finally moving in the right direction, and policymakers in other states can learn from our successes as well as our struggles.

DAVID GARCIA is the policy director of UC Berkeley's Terner Center for Housing Innovation. BILL FULTON is a Terner Center fellow and a former San Diego planning director.



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

WORKERS ASSEMBLE an accessory dwelling unit in the backyard of a South Los Angeles home in 2021.

The writers' strike is partly about AI. They're right to worry

By Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson

THE WRITERS GUILD of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers agree on one thing: Artificial intelligence is coming. At the same time, they disagree fundamentally on an issue that we will all soon struggle with.

Can the owners of capital assets (the studios) use AI to substantially replace workers (the writers) and tilt the balance of power in their favor? Or is there a way to address the entirely reasonable demand from writers that this increasingly capable software remain a tool under the control of workers?

Silicon Valley has long been infatuated with "machine intelligence," the goal of creating software that can mimic what humans do. The technology arms race to create human-like abilities has recently become a dangerous obsession, threatening to destroy millions of good jobs. But attempting to stop the development of these algorithms is not the right solution.

We need, instead, a pivot on the part of inventors, entrepreneurs and policymakers toward a focus on "machine usefulness," the idea that computers should primarily enhance human capabilities. But this needs to be combined with an explicit recognition that any resulting productivity gains must be shared with workers, in terms of higher incomes and better working conditions.

More educated and better resourced workers — think of many on Wall Street — will probably figure some of this out for themselves. The really pressing problem is among low-wage workers whom new technology — for example, at Amazon — already puts under greater surveillance and squeezes to work harder, in more difficult conditions.

We have been grappling with the consequences of machines replacing people for nearly 1,000 years. The idea that automation necessarily creates shared prosperity is an illusion — that's not what happened in medieval Europe, or in the first century of the Industrial Revolution, or in the digital transformation we have experienced since 1980.

In our lifetimes, the increasing use of computers has contributed significantly to the loss of well-paid blue- and white-collar jobs, a hollowing out of the middle class in many parts of the U.S., and the widening of income inequality.

The digital transformation boosted productivity, but not by as much as expected and the benefits were not widely shared. The internet was supposed to let information run free but resulted in the creation of some very powerful companies that are now using our data — without proper permissions — to train their algorithms.

And if you want a glimpse of how much damage can be wrought by reckless innovation, look at social media.

AI could be bigger than the sum of these elements — precisely because it is the culmination of more than four decades of innovation. Think about the impact of electricity, which runs continually in the background of our lives. From the late 19th century, electricity transformed industrial production and every aspect of people's lives. However, this change took several decades to take effect, allowing plenty of time for new jobs to be created and for labor unions to demand higher pay in return for greater productivity.

We now face a mad on-rush of generative AI. Can we avoid further widening the wealth gap with the advent of AI, which could replace lower-skilled jobs — and even high-skilled jobs — as it becomes better trained?

We need to create incentives for innovators to apply AI-related technology to address real human problems — and to shift away from developing the tools of social oppression.

First and foremost, this requires shifting the social narrative about who controls technology (a few big companies), who benefits when technology changes (the people who run those companies), and what we really want to get from technology (not what our technoelite has in mind). Once people are grappling more explicitly with these issues, we can start to redirect technology with four action items.

First, the U.S. government should immediately allocate research funding to projects focused on creating human complementary technologies throughout the economy. In sectors such as education, healthcare and other public priorities, the government should commit to purchase and help deploy appropriate technology, subject to existing standards.

The history of federal research and development funding working in tandem with public procurement is clear: If you support new breakthrough ideas and also create a big potential market for specific technological solutions, private innovation will move decisively in that direction. This is how we led the world in developing antibiotics, jet aircraft and semiconductors.

Second, voluntary data unions should be created, including anyone who puts images on the internet, ranging from professional agencies to individuals with family photos. AI companies are currently using these images without permission and without compensation. Lawsuits should be brought to stop this practice, which in many instances is blatant and outrageous copyright violation.

Third, guidelines from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration should be updated to prevent the most intrusive forms of workplace surveillance. So-called bossware is already spreading widely, and generative AI threatens to make this much more powerful and oppressive. Updating existing regulations can be done and does not require congressional approval.

Finally, our current fiscal system discourages the hiring of workers and encourages their replacement with machines and algorithms. One step is to eliminate payroll taxes (which raise the cost of hiring people) and replace them with a more effective tax system on corporate profits, by raising tax rates and ending the myriad loopholes around "carried interest" for private equity funds.

Making the AI revolution more responsive to workers' and societal needs will take all kinds of regulatory changes. We need to start thinking creatively about the controls and incentives that will guide this technology's future.

DARON ACEMOGLU and SIMON JOHNSON are professors at MIT and co-authors of the forthcoming book "Power and Progress: Our 1,000-Year Struggle Over Technology & Prosperity."

COVID-19 deaths fell nearly 50% in 2022

U.S. decline credited to widespread vaccinations and rise in natural immunity.

By Rong-Gong Lin II and Luke Money

The national COVID-19 death rate fell by nearly 50% in 2022 compared with the prior year, a decline that has been credited to widespread vaccinations as well as a rise in natural immunity after the first Omicron surge.

There were 244,986 deaths in the U.S. that listed COVID-19 as the underlying or contributing cause, down 47% from 2021 when 462,193 deaths were reported, according to an analysis of provisional death certificate data published Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The number excludes residents of U.S. territories and foreign countries.

The early months of 2022 included the second-deadliest surge of COVID-19, as the first Omicron wave sent the extraordinarily contagious variant seemingly everywhere in the U.S. But during the summer and most recent winter, deaths dropped sharply.

Besides vaccinations and rising natural immunity, 2022 also brought the widespread availability of anti-COVID therapeutic drugs such as Paxlovid, an oral medication that significantly reduces the risk of hospitalization and death when taken by people infected with the coronavirus.

Nonetheless, with nearly a quarter-million fatalities in 2022, COVID-19 has remained a leading cause of death — albeit less so. Last year, COVID-19 deaths were seven times higher than the annual number of flu deaths, which averaged about 35,000 each year in the decade before the start of the pandemic.

Nationally, COVID-19 surged to become the third leading cause of death in both 2020 and 2021. Last year, it fell to fourth place, behind heart disease, cancer and unintentional injury (a category that has remained high because of the elevated number of drug overdose deaths).

The cumulative COVID-19 death toll — now 1.13 million in the U.S. and 6.9 million worldwide — is staggering, with a national death toll that exceeds the last global pandemic of this scale, although the global tally is far lower. The flu pandemic that began in 1918 resulted in an estimated 675,000 deaths in the U.S. and at least 50 million worldwide.

Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

A TRAVELER wears a mask at Los Angeles International Airport in May 2022. That year, 244,986 deaths in the U.S. listed COVID-19 as the underlying or contributing cause, down 47% from 462,193 in 2021, according to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

According to the latest analysis, published by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, COVID-19 deaths were highest in the U.S. for people 85 and older. In 2022, that group's death rate was triple those ages 75 to 84 and about eight times higher than the youngest seniors, ages 65 to 74.

Men had a 50% higher death rate than women.

Of all fatalities with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate, 76% listed COVID-19 as the underlying cause. That's lower than in 2020 and 2021, when COVID-19 was the underlying cause in 90% of deaths in which the illness was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate; the rest listed it as a contributing cause of death.

Among deaths in which COVID-19 was listed as a contributing factor, the most frequent main causes of deaths were heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, unintentional injuries, diabetes, kidney disease and Parkinson's disease.

In 2022, most COVID-19 deaths — 59% of them — occurred in hospitals. An increasing number were occurring at home (15%) or a nursing home or long-term care facility (14%), the report said.

The analysis also calculated death rates by the 10 regions defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For the second consecutive year, the South had the worst COVID-19 death rates. The highest rate in both 2021 and 2022 occurred in the central South region that covers Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico. In 2022, the rate for that region was 69.3 COVID-19 deaths for every 100,000 residents.

In second place for both years was the Southeast, defined as Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky and Mississippi. The rate there in 2022 was 65.5 COVID-19 deaths for every 100,000 residents.

Close behind was the Midwest — Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota — with a rate of 65.1 COVID-19 deaths for every 100,000 people; and the Mid-Atlantic, which represents Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia, with 64.9 COVID-19 deaths for every 100,000.

In fifth place were the central Great Plains states of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska, with 63.7 COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 residents, ranking just above the national death rate of 61.3 deaths for every 100,000.

Below the national COVID-19 death rate was the New York-New Jersey region, with 57.4 deaths per 100,000 residents. The Southwest, which encompasses California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii, had the fourth-lowest rate: 53 COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 residents. The northern Rockies and northern Great Plains states of Colorado, Utah, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming had a rate of 52.2 COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 residents.

The region with the second-lowest COVID-19 death rate in 2022 was the Northwest — Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska — with a rate of 50.9 deaths per 100,000 residents. New England had the lowest COVID-19 death rate in 2022, of 49.5 deaths per 100,000 residents.

The South didn't always have the highest COVID-19 death rate nationally. In 2020, the New York-New Jersey region topped that tally, while New England's death rate was also slightly higher than the national average.

Only three regions had COVID-19 death rates lower than the national average for all three years of the pandemic: the Southwest; the Northwest; and the northern Rockies/northern Great Plains. Conversely, one region had death rates that were higher than the national rate for each of those years: the central South area that encompasses Texas and its neighboring states.

The magnitude of the disparity of COVID-19 deaths by race and ethnic groups lessened in 2022 compared with the prior year, but still remained for many. In general, disparities by race and ethnic group have been worse during pandemic spikes, and there were fewer surges in 2022.

In 2022, Native Americans had a COVID-19 death rate 42% worse than white residents; for Black residents and Pacific Islanders, the rate was 19% and 11% worse, respectively. Latino COVID-19 death rates were about the same as those for white residents, while Asian American and multiracial groups had rates below that of white residents.

The magnitude of the death disparity was worse in 2021. Compared with white residents, Native American and Pacific Islanders' COVID-19 death rate was more than 90% higher; Latino death rates were 54% higher; and Black death rates were 44% higher.

In 2020, Native Americans died of COVID-19 at a rate 157% higher than white residents. For Latino residents, the rate was 122% higher; Black residents, 109% higher; and Pacific Islander residents, 67% higher.

COVID-19 death rates fell for all racial and ethnic groups from 2021 to 2022. However, between 2020 and 2021, they grew notably for white residents, jumping 42%. They also increased 59% for multiracial residents and 63% for Pacific Islanders. During that same span, death rates among Latino, Black and Native American residents remained at generally the same, distressingly high levels.

The data published in the CDC analysis are considered provisional and incomplete. Final mortality data for 2022 are expected to be released toward the end of this year.

Ex-UC Davis student is arrested in serial stabbings

[**Stabbings,** from A1]

families will sleep easier tonight."

Dominguez, who was majoring in biological sciences, had been in his third year at UC Davis until April 25, when he was separated for unspecified academic reasons, according to the university. He had no criminal record, police said.

Two days after UC Davis ousted Dominguez, on April 27, authorities found the body of 50-year-old David Henry Breaux, a Stanford University graduate who slept in Davis' Central Park and was known around town for his gentle proselytizing on the need for human compassion. Breaux had been stabbed to death on the bench where he often slept.

It was the first of three attacks authorities attribute to Dominguez.

Two days later, Karim Abou Najm, 20, a UC Davis student who had recently posted to social media about his joy at finding a job as a software engineer, was fatally stabbed in Sycamore Park as he biked home from a university event Saturday night.

Monday night, a woman in her 60s was attacked as she slept at 2nd and L streets. She was alone when a person slashed the side of her tent, reached in and stabbed her several times. She was taken to UC Davis Medical Center, where she was recovering after surgery.

Dominguez, who graduated from Castlemont High School in Oakland in 2020, is expected to be arraigned in Yolo County Superior Court on Friday afternoon.

Dominguez could not be reached for comment. Reached by phone, his father said the family was in shock after learning from a Los Angeles Times reporter that his son had been arrested. The father, who asked not to be named to protect the family's privacy, said family members had been trying to reach Dominguez for the last three days because they had heard about the stabbings and were worried about his safety. He had not responded, the father said, and they assumed he was busy with his studies.

In a subsequent call, the father said investigators arrived at the family's home later Thursday to ask about his son.

He said his son had excelled in his high school classes, was beloved by his teachers there, and had no history of trouble.

"This is inexplicable to me," he said, adding that he was unaware that his son had been separated from UC Davis last week. "He was so excited to go to Davis. I don't understand how this could happen."

In a blog devoted to a healthcare internship for students from diverse backgrounds that Dominguez had participated in during high school, he described his dreams of becoming a doctor to help people like his grandmother.

"I got into healthcare to help my grandmother — she has type 2 diabetes," he said. "It makes me happy and it makes her happy, and I just love seeing her smile."

Dominguez played football and ran track in high school, and indicated in a brief biography on the blog post that he was devoted to his two younger siblings.

Paul Kitagaki Jr. Sacramento Bee

OFFICIALS investigate the home of stabbing suspect Carlos Reales Dominguez, 21, on Thursday.

The weeklong spate of seemingly random violence terrified Davis residents, sending a chill through a laid-back college town that usually bustles with bikers and joggers, its parks filled with dog walkers and the sights and sounds of youth sports.

After the third attack, the city's cafes and extensive network of bike paths emptied out as residents hunkered down. The popular Little League canceled night games. UC Davis made evening classes remote, and some professors moved even daytime classes online because students were reluctant to leave their dorms. Businesses started shutting their doors early. The city's famed farmers market called off its fruit stands and food trucks Wednesday.

Many people who hadn't locked their homes in months began digging through drawers looking for their keys.

Fear also turned many residents hypervigilant; hundreds of people called the Davis Police Department with tips about the crimes. The police chief said Thursday's arrest would not have happened without residents' help.

On Wednesday afternoon, Pytel said, about 15 callers near Sycamore Park reported seeing a person who matched the description of the assailant provided by witnesses after the third attack. One resident followed the suspect and led police to him.

Among those who called was Carter Carlson, 23, who went to Sycamore Park on Wednesday to leave roses and a note at a memorial to Najm, the second victim. When Carlson noticed he was alone, he became more alert to his surroundings. That's when he spotted a man walking toward the playground, wearing a black sweatshirt and black Adidas track pants with a white stripe — the same outfit the assailant in the third attack was described as wearing.

Feeling uneasy, Carlson made his way to his car and drove to a place where he could still see the park. As the suspect left the park, Carlson tailed him, while calling the police. After a few minutes, he said, police cars sped past and he later saw the officers questioning Dominguez.

"I'm incredibly proud of my community," Carlson said. "I'm just so glad that he's been taken in and it feels as though we can all take a breath of relief."

The officers who detained Dominguez at the park asked whether he'd be willing to come to the police station for further questioning, and he agreed.

When they searched him, they found a large "hunting-style knife" in his backpack. The weapon was "consistent with one we were looking for based on evidence from the first homicide," Pytel said.

Detectives spoke with Dominguez for hours. Pytel described his manner as "reserved," but declined to reveal details of the interview.

The chief said physical evidence indicated that the victims had fought back, and Dominguez had injuries on his hands and wrists when police encountered him.

Even as the Pytel detailed the arrest, officers were executing a search warrant at a four-bedroom house near the UC Davis campus where Dominguez lived with several roommates.

In recent days, FBI agents and homicide detectives from around the region had streamed in to help the city's small Police Department. Davis, surrounded by fields of sunflowers and tomatoes and orchards of almonds and peaches, is said to be so safe that many residents don't lock their doors and young children frequently bike or walk to school alone. Before the stabbings, the last reported homicide in city limits was in 2019, according to officials.

With the mayor at his side, Pytel on Thursday called on Davis residents to "resume their life as normal." But both men also noted that the city had lost two special residents, Breaux and Najm, and that a third traumatized victim remains in the hospital.

UC Davis officials offered few details about Dominguez beyond his being a third-year student who had recently been "separated for academic reasons." The university issued a statement saying the administration was "partnering with law enforcement" and urged the community "not to rush to conclusions or speculate until all facts are known."

UC Davis Chancellor Gary May, who attended the news conference, said he had spoken with Najm's father, Majdi Abou Najm, a professor at UC Davis. In the days since his son's death, the elder Najm has been visiting a shrine that sprung up in the park near where his son was attacked, talking to those who leave flowers.

May said he cried at Najm's description of the searing turn of events: A father who should have been preparing for his son's graduation was instead preparing for a funeral.

CALIFORNIA

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

SAMUEL SOLIS, front, and his son, Samuel Jr., stand in front of the family restaurant, which has just had metal bars installed to discourage thieves. "It's going to change the aesthetic, but oh well," said Samuel Sr.

Break-ins plague landmark taqueria

A rash of restaurant heists forces the owner of Anaheim's Taco Boy to adapt

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

When Samuel Solis opened Taco Boy in Anaheim in 1985, my hometown was a taco desert.

Mexican food in Anaheim back then was Cal-Mex combo plates and fast-food hard-shell tacos. To get something as simple as carne asada on a warm corn tortilla dressed with cilantro and onion, my father usually took us to the King Taco off 3rd Street and Ford Boulevard in East Los Angeles, or Taqueria de Anda in nearby Fullerton if we were really desperate.

Solis had worked in taquerias in L.A. County since arriving in the U.S. as a 21-year-old in the late 1970s. After a stint at multiple King Tacos, followed by a taco truck in downtown L.A. and a restaurant in Huntington Park, he acquired a former tortilleria near Anaheim City Hall. The street housed a bunch of bars and the original Northgate Gonzalez market, right next to barrios.

"Here was my *raza* from Guanajuato," said Solis, now 66, referring to the Mexican state where he was born. His son, Samuel Jr., sat next to him as they waited for the lunch rush at their small, sparsely decorated spot. "But there also wasn't a lot of competition back then. We did good from the start."

[See **Arellano,** B5]

States to probe NFL over race and gender bias

California, New York launch investigation into allegations league has hostile workplace.

BY ALEXANDRA E. PETRI

NEW YORK — California and New York attorneys general announced Thursday they are beginning an investigation into the NFL, focusing on claims of workplace discrimination and a hostile environment more than a year after dozens of former female employees disclosed negative experiences working within the organization.

The probe will examine allegations of gender pay disparities, harassment, and gender and race discrimination in potential violation of state and federal laws, according to a joint statement released by California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta and New York Atty. Gen. Letitia James.

The states have subpoenaed the NFL, which has offices in New York and California, for relevant information.

In an interview Thursday, Bonta said the investigation is being conducted jointly with New York because the organization has its headquarters in New York, with secondary offices in California, comprising more than 1,000 employees across both offices. He pointed to "very disturbing and concerning reports" alleging discrimination and pay inequity for women that have surfaced in investigative articles, lawsuits and congressional hearings that led to the investigation.

"Our role as attorneys general is to hold entities, corporations and institutions accountable when they violate the law, especially those who are large, powerful and popular, like the NFL," Bonta said.

The investigation is in its early stages.

California will focus on the NFL employees who work in the Los Angeles office and seek material about the employment, pay practices and office culture, Bonta said. The attorneys general, who will work together, also have the authority to take depositions and testimony from key decision-makers involved in workplace environment, training, pay and other areas germane to the investigation.

There is no timeline for completion of the investigation, Bonta said. If the allegations are substantiated, the attorneys general will primarily be focusing on ensuring that reform and change are brought to the organization.

Brian McCarthy, chief spokesman for the NFL, said the league will cooperate with the investigation. In a statement, McCarthy called the allegations "entirely inconsistent with the NFL's values and practices" and said the league offices offer a culture where "employees of all genders, races and backgrounds thrive."

"The NFL is committed to ensuring all employees of the league are respected, treated fairly, and have equitable pay and access to developmental opportunities,"

[See **NFL,** B2]

Feinstein not alone in long shingles recovery

The painful condition can present chronic issues for some older patients, doctors say.

BY MELISSA HEALY

Growing up in San Francisco in the 1930s and '40s, Dianne Goldman weathered outbreaks of polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, mumps and chickenpox. With vaccines for many childhood diseases at least a decade off, scourges like these claimed more than a fourth of the world's youth before they reached puberty.

One of those maladies has caught up with the now-89-year-old, better known as Sen. Feinstein. Shingles — caused by a virus left behind after a case of chickenpox — threatens to end the storied political career of California's longest-serving senator.

In early March, Feinstein announced that she was hospitalized for shingles, roughly two weeks after coming down with the painful, blistering rash that heralds the reawakening of the long-dormant varicella zoster virus.

Feinstein's office has offered no further details about the course of her illness or the extent of her impairment. The senator is known to have had a cardiac pacemaker implanted in 2017. There have been widespread rumors that a decline in her cognitive health has compromised her ability to fulfill her Senate duties, but neither Feinstein nor her staff has addressed those concerns recently.

For now, at least, shingles appears to explain her absence from the Senate.

A case of shingles can visit two weeks of burning agony on a younger patient before it goes away on its own. But in older patients, it's far more likely to last longer and to leave chronic nerve pain in its wake.

"This is the one disease we vaccinate against despite the fact that it doesn't really kill people," said Mayo Clinic geriatrician Dr. Amit A. Shah. "The reason is because it can be terribly

[See **Feinstein,** B5]

Golden superblooms can mask insidious invaders

Sahara mustard, other troublesome species strangle native flowers and raise fire danger.

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

Tourists and travelers driving to see California's wildflowers this year may see some striking vistas along the way — swaths of bright yellow, perhaps, covering formerly drab hillsides.

Before you ooh and aah, keep in mind: Some of that growth is of invasive species that pose a treacherous threat. Experts say these plants can create stark and dramatic changes to the environment, altering soil chemistry and erasing native flora in some areas.

"In the 2017-2018 superbloom, I was down in the desert and you could see one side of the hillside ... with this spectacular superbloom," said Andrea Williams, director of biodiversity initiatives for the California Native Plant Society. "The other side was just a field of Sahara mustard."

Plants like Sahara mustard or black mustard, which feature thick bushes dotted with pleasant-looking yellow flowers, are among the species that are most common and recognizable in Southern California

[See **Invasive,** B4]

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE BLOOM of black mustard may beguile hikers, but during a fire, invasive plants like these ignite faster and reseed before native plants can, one expert says.

USC misled online social work grad students, suit says

Applicants were unaware private firm provided the remote instruction, filing says.

BY MATT HAMILTON AND TERESA WATANABE

USC falsely marketed an online social-work degree program as equal to its respected on-campus offering, using it as a "cash cow" to lure in students unaware of the difference, a class-action lawsuit filed Thursday alleges.

The complaint filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court alleges that USC did not inform students that many components of the online master's of social work degree are outsourced to a for-profit education company, 2U Inc., and that USC splits the tuition revenue with its publicly traded partner.

Although USC has marketed the online option as "the same" as the on-campus counterpart, the virtual program's instructors, curriculum, internship placement and other services have been different — and inferior, the lawsuit asserts.

The Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work presents itself as "champions" for social justice, the lawsuit says but asserts the reality is different: "USC appears to have sacrificed these goals for the promise of immediate gains of partnering with a for-profit corporation in a scheme to maximize its own revenue at the expense of its students."

USC said in a statement that it would "review the lawsuit in detail when we receive it."

But the university pushed back on the notion that it offered separate instruction to virtual students: "The school has one MSW program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and delivered through on-campus and online options," according to a statement.

USC also said it had overhauled its social work degree to be more affordable, slashing tuition by 25% in 2022. And for much of the last year, the school has been run by the dean of USC's pharmacy school, Vassilios Pa-

[See **USC lawsuit,** B2]

Menendezes want reversal of convictions

Brothers who killed their parents in 1989 point to new evidence that their father was abusive. **B3**

Still no suspect in RV killings

The four victims in Mojave, Calif., are identified, but Kern County officials have few other details. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Playoff loss to Padres last season a sore point for Dodgers. **B10**

USC sued over 'inferior' online program

[**USC lawsuit,** from B1]
padopoulos, who has worked to make it more financially sustainable. Reforms include greater oversight over academics affairs, curriculum and student wellness.

One of the lead plaintiffs in the case, Stephanie Luna, said she felt "betrayed" when she learned last fall about differences between the online and on-campus programs, which were reported by The Times and the Wall Street Journal.

The court filing accuses USC of deceptive advertising, unjust enrichment, fraudulent conduct and violations of state civil rights law.

"I felt hurt that a university like USC — very prestigious, well-known — would knowingly use deceitful recruitment tactics to target students going into a profession that is meant to help communities that are oftentimes marginalized," said Luna, who graduated in May 2021.

The lawsuit is the latest controversy to hit the social work school, which has been roiled by tumult and scandal in recent years. But the program was once considered a USC success story, with its visionary embrace of digital learning.

The longtime dean of USC's social work program, Marilyn Flynn, launched the online effort in 2010. An early win was enrolling then-Rep. Karen Bass in the master's program with free tuition while she served in Congress, proving that working professionals at all levels could participate.

"As a top research university, we have a meaningful role to play in the online education revolution. And I think we have demonstrated that," Flynn told a campus publication in 2015.

The venture with 2U made USC's social work school the largest in the country, with the student body growing from about 900 in 2010 to 3,500 in 2016. Tuition climbed to $115,000 by 2021.

But the surge in students — and with that, a gush of revenue — did not pan out as Flynn and her colleagues hoped.

Hiring instructors and staff proved costly and, the lawsuit alleges, their quality is not the same as those working in the on-campus program.

An almost entirely different group of instructors, who do not otherwise work for USC and are not part of the "world-class" permanent research faculty, conduct the online instruction, the lawsuit alleges.

Other problems began to mount. USC signed up for pricey office space in a downtown L.A. high-rise. More affordable master's degree programs came on the market, including Cal State Northridge's two-year online program, which charges $46,000.

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

USC, whose administration building sits behind the Tommy Trojan statue, denies allegations in a class-action lawsuit filed Thursday that its online social work graduate program is inferior to the on-campus version.

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

MARILYN Flynn, the longtime dean of USC's social work program, launched the online effort in 2010. The program grew rapidly but was fraught with problems.

USC pushed to fill online classes with more students, which led to the admission of less-qualified students and aggressive recruiting practices — which further diminished the learning experience and the social work program's overall reputation, The Times has reported.

> 'I felt hurt that a university like USC — very prestigious, well-known — would knowingly use deceitful recruitment tactics.'
>
> — STEPHANIE LUNA, one of the lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit

The lawsuit highlights the recruiting practices, which it calls "reverse redlining" — targeting people by race, age, gender and other characteristics deemed most likely to accept an admission offer. The training material, for instance, included graphics that depict a Black woman labeled "Needy Nelly" who had trouble with the application, needed "high touch" handholding, and was rated as the most likely to enroll.

"Confirmed Carmen," a Latina, was also rated with a high probability for enrollment. But "Money Molly" — a "very intelligent" white woman — was considered a tough recruit.

Luna, one of the plaintiffs, said such tactics appalled her as a Latina who is the first in her family to attend college. She said she chose USC because it offered a part-time program she could complete while continuing to work. She said she expressed concern about affordability but was told by the admission counselor — who she said she did not know was a 2U employee — that scholarships and loans were available, and she was certain to be accepted. Her confidence buoyed, Luna enrolled in May 2019.

But Luna said she soon began to feel uneasy. She was not granted either of two scholarships she applied for and had to take out more than $100,000 in loans. A summer "internship" fell short, she said, by failing to provide one-on-one training. The instruction was disjointed, with lectures often not aligned with the reading and video material assigned for the class, she said.

Luna, who works at UCLA as a case manager for students in distress, said, "In retrospect, if I could do it all over again, I would not have chosen to go to USC."

Frustrations with the overall direction of USC's social work program erupted in June 2018, when faculty members issued a no-confidence vote over then-dean Flynn's leadership, leading to her ouster.

By 2018, USC's social work school was running an annual deficit of $21 million, according to courtroom testimony this year. "Our expenses had exceeded the revenue we got by enrollment," testified John Clapp, who took over as interim dean after Flynn departed.

In 2019, as the fiscal crisis at the social work school mounted, USC embarked on a series of cost-cutting measures, including layoffs.

"We're still reeling from it," Clapp testified regarding the fiscal crisis. This fall, tuition will still be $20,000 less than that charged in 2021.

It's unclear how much money the social work program generates for 2U, which runs several online degrees with USC. In the fiscal year that ended in June 2021, the most recent year available, USC sent nearly $80 million to 2U for its share of student tuition revenue.

The cash crunch at the social work school also played a role in one of the most high-profile scandals at USC. With a mounting deficit, Flynn looked to government contracts as one way to boost her school's sagging finances. Federal prosecutors allege she turned to one of Los Angeles County's most powerful lawmakers, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, to help secure government contracts.

County contracts were "important for the survival of the school," Clapp said, and would help "make up our fiscal deficit."

Federal prosecutors accused Flynn and Ridley-Thomas of being in a corrupt conspiracy, whereby Flynn offered the lawmaker a host of benefits to his son — including a job, scholarship and $100,000 funneled through the university to his son's nonprofit — in exchange for the politician's support and vote on contracts and initiatives.

Last year, Flynn pleaded guilty to one federal count of bribery in connection with the $100,000 payment.

In March, Ridley-Thomas was convicted of seven felonies in connection with the bribery and conspiracy scheme to route money through USC while voting on a contract amendment sought by Flynn.

Both are scheduled to be sentenced this summer.

Last summer, then-dean Sarah Gehlert, who joined USC in 2020, abruptly stepped down.

Since then, the school has been led on an interim basis by Papadopoulos, dean of USC's pharmacy school.

In a statement, USC credited Papadopoulos with restoring the school's financial outlook, launching a graduate certificate program and opening an academic center in San Diego.

Papadopoulos is expected to remain in the post for the near future. USC plans to begin its search for a permanent dean this summer.

Lottery results

Tonight's Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $68 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

For Wednesday, May 3, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

17-20-21-24-44—**Mega 26**
Jackpot: $55 million

Winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	1	$48,638
4 + Mega	15	$1,621
4	434	$93
3 + Mega	599	$60
3	17,235	$10
2 + Mega	8,270	$11
1 + Mega	40,033	$2
Mega only	61,588	$1

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

21-26-30-45-47—**Powerball 23**
Jackpot: $71 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	0	—
4 + P-ball	0	—
4	30	$330
3 + P-ball	58	$177
3	1,621	$7
2 + P-ball	1,263	$8
1 + P-ball	9,387	$5
P-ball only	22,767	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Thursday, May 4, 2023

Fantasy Five: 10-20-22-28-33

Daily Four: 5-7-5-9

Daily Three (midday): 9-6-4

Daily Three (evening): 0-4-4

Daily Derby:
(8) Gorgeous George
(11) Money Bags
(1) Gold Rush
Race time: 1:43.57

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

States investigating NFL work practices

[**NFL,** from B1]
McCarthy said. "Our policies are intended not only to comply with all applicable laws but to foster a workplace free from harassment, intimidation and discrimination.

"We are confident that our pay practices exceed any requirement of the law, and as many organizations do, we regularly take deliberate steps to ensure women and people of color are compensated equitably," he said. "This includes working with third-party experts to ensure compensation decisions are not impacted by race, ethnicity, or gender, and we are proud of the results of that work."

The states' announcement comes more than a year after more than 30 female employees shared their experiences of working at the NFL with the New York Times in a sweeping investigation. The women, particularly women of color, claimed the organization fostered a demoralizing culture and left them feeling overlooked, leading many to leave their careers despite promises from the league to improve working conditions. The league denied the claims, but the reporting led James and several other attorneys general to warn the NFL last April that it could face a broad investigation if things didn't change.

WILFREDO LEE Associated Press

BRIAN FLORES, coaching the Miami Dolphins in 2022, filed a class-action civil complaint last year claiming the NFL and its teams were "rife with racism."

The NFL provided a written response to James and the other officials detailing policies and initiatives aimed at improving its culture, but received no additional communication from the attorneys general before Thursday's announcement, McCarthy said.

A spokesperson for James' office says it continued to receive allegations of workplace discrimination and a hostile work environment after receiving the NFL's response, suggesting the issues had not been resolved.

In their joint statement Thursday, Bonta and James said the league has failed to take sufficient action. They cited an employment discrimination lawsuit filed last month in Los Angeles County Superior Court by a former female NFL Media Group executive who alleged age and gender discrimination and a hostile work environment.

The NFL has come under scrutiny over the years. In 2022, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform launched a yearlong inquiry into allegations of workplace misconduct by Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder and team executives, which found a pattern of sexual harassment in the organization from 2006 to 2019. Snyder has denied the allegations.

Brian Flores, the terminated coach of the Miami Dolphins, filed a class-action civil complaint in 2022 claiming the NFL and its teams — specifically the New York Giants, the Dolphins and the Denver Broncos — remain "rife with racism, particularly when it comes to the hiring and retention of Black head coaches, coordinators and general managers."

Another lawsuit filed against the NFL cited in the joint statement involved alleged race discrimination targeting a Black female employee and sexual harassment of a female wardrobe stylist. A settlement was reached in 2018.

Times staff writers Sam Farmer and J. Brady McCollough contributed to this report.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

STORM CLOUDS roll through the Canyon Country neighborhood of Santa Clarita on Thursday as a late-season storm brought rain to the Southland. Temperatures are expected to warm up gradually into next week.

May showers may bring flowers

Unusual storm brings rain, snow and a wet morning commute to Southern California.

BY SUMMER LIN

Southern Californians could see some light showers Friday as the region's most recent rainstorm draws to an end.

The unusual May storm tapered off Thursday afternoon after dumping rain and snow on the region.

Rainfall totals through 3 p.m. Thursday included: 0.50 inches in downtown Los Angeles, 0.44 inches in Long Beach, 0.13 inches at Los Angeles International Airport, 0.77 inches in Burbank and 2.28 inches in Pasadena, according to the National Weather Service.

The areas that received the most rainfall were in the San Gabriel Valley and the Santa Ynez Mountains in Santa Barbara County.

"We do occasionally get storms in May, but it does tend to be unusual," said National Weather Service meteorologist David Sweet. "The interesting thing about this particular weather pattern is that it's almost identical to what we had in January and February, with the cold low-pressure systems dropping from Canada or Gulf of Alaska to the West Coast."

Temperatures were about 10 to 20 degrees below normal on Thursday, but it's expected to warm up gradually throughout the weekend into next week, Sweet said.

Temperatures are expected to range in the mid- to upper 60s over the weekend and warm up into the mid-70s by next week.

"I think, even early next week, we're gonna be a few degrees below normal still because this pattern that we're in is going to persist and the effects will retreat to Northern California," Sweet said. "We won't be getting clouds and rain, but we'll be kind of cool."

A series of storms this year has largely alleviated the drought in California, replenished reservoirs and snowpacks and helped quell wildfire danger.

Since Oct. 1, the beginning of the rainfall season, downtown Los Angeles has received 27.55 inches of rain, compared with the 13.73 inches it usually gets during a regular year, Sweet said. That puts the rainfall amount about 200% above normal.

This calendar year has had the 20th-highest rainfall total on record for downtown Los Angeles, with 22.74 inches of rain, even though it's only May, Sweet said.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows only parts of desert regions in California being "abnormally dry" or experiencing moderate drought.

"This rainfall that we got was very impressive because we were dealing with a significant drought before the season," Sweet said. "And now after the season — no drought."

Menendezes want reversal of convictions

Brothers who killed parents in 1989 point to new evidence their father was abusive.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

Erik and Lyle Menendez, the brothers who shot and killed their parents in their Beverly Hills mansion, are asking the courts to vacate their 1996 convictions, citing new evidence from a documentary series alleging that their father sexually assaulted a former underage member of Menudo.

Roy Rosselló, a former member of the internationally popular boy band in the 1980s, alleged he was drugged and raped when he was 13 or 14 years old by Jose Menendez, an RCA Records executive at the time.

The allegations were first raised in "Menendez + Menudo: Boys Betrayed," a three-part docuseries on Peacock that looks into allegations that band members were abused by the group's creator, Edgardo Díaz.

In the series, reported by journalists Nery Ynclan and Robert Rand, Rosselló alleges Díaz sexually abused him during his time with the band. The Los Angeles Police Department confirmed that it had opened an investigation into at least one of the alleged attacks.

Rosselló claims Díaz took him to Menendez's New Jersey home, where he was allegedly drugged and raped by the elder Menendez. Rosselló suggests the trip was to help seal a deal between the boy band and the record company.

In their petition filed Wednesday, attorneys for the Menendez brothers argue that the new allegations of abuse back the siblings' contention that the 1989 murders were an act of self-defense after facing years of abuse by their parents and fear that their parents would kill them if they went public.

The petition also cites a newly discovered letter written by Erik Menendez to his cousin, suggesting that the alleged sexual abuse continued as recently as months before the deadly shootings.

"The new evidence not only shows that Jose Menendez was very much a violent and brutal man who would sexually abuse children, but it strongly suggests that — in fact — he was still abusing Erik Menendez as late as 1988," the filing reads.

Erik and Lyle Menendez alleged during their high-profile trials that they had been subject to sexual, physical and emotional abuse at the hands their parents.

Although their first trials detailed years of alleged sexual abuse and ended with two hung juries, the brothers were retried and convicted in 1996. In that trial, evidence of the alleged abuse was limited.

In the petition, attorneys for the brothers note that during the second trial, after evidence of alleged abuse was excluded, prosecutors argued in court that the allegations of abuse were "a total fabrication" and that there was "no corroboration of sexual abuse."

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Wednesday's habeas corpus petition argues that new evidence suggests Jose Menendez abused other children and continued to abuse Erik Menendez.

Attorneys are asking the court to open an evidentiary hearing or to vacate the convictions and sentences.

Rosselló, who provided a declaration in the case, has also expanded his allegations of abuse. According to court records, Rosselló alleges that after he was raped in New Jersey, Jose Menendez also performed oral copulation on him before he appeared in a Menudo concert in New York.

After the concert, according to the declaration, Menendez then raped Rosselló in a hotel room.

In the docuseries, Rosselló is seen looking at an old picture with Díaz and Menendez standing alongside members of the band.

"That's the pedophile," he says, pointing to Menendez.

Attorneys also cite a letter written in 1988 by Erik Menendez to his cousin, Andy Cano, about Jose Menendez.

"I've been trying to avoid dad," the letter reads. "It's still happening Andy but its worse for me now. I can't explain it. He so overweight that I can't stand to see him. I never know when its going to happen and its driving me crazy. Every night I stay up thinking he might come in."

In the petition, attorneys argue that the new evidence requires a review of the case.

"Jurors making this determination did not know of Erik's letter to his cousin Andy, and they did not know that Jose Menendez had previously raped a 14-year-old boy," the document reads.

Both Erik and Lyle Menendez have previously filed unsuccessful appeals.

The appellate court confirmed the brothers' convictions in February 1998, and in May that same year petitions for review were also denied. In 1999, the California Supreme Court also denied habeas corpus petitions filed by both Lyle and Erik Menendez.

Tornado hits Carson and Compton area

BY NATHAN SOLIS

A tornado touched down Thursday morning in the Carson and Compton area, causing some minor damage with winds reaching 75 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

The brief tornado hit at 8:45 a.m. and registered an EF0 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, meteorologists said. The tornado left a concentrated short path that damaged a building, some vehicles and trees, the National Weather Service said.

Video posted on social media showed debris swirling in the sky beneath an updraft base of thunderstorm clouds.

Aerial footage from KTLA-TV showed some roof damage to buildings .

In March, a tornado ripped through Montebello with recorded winds of 110 mph. The tornado caused major damage to several buildings and toppled multiple trees.

It was the strongest tornado to hit Los Angeles County in 40 years, according to officials.

The Enhanced Fujita Scale's highest rating is a 5 for twisters with winds topping 200 mph.

KTLA-TV Channel 5

A DAMAGED roof in Carson after a tornado touched down with 75-mph winds Thursday morning.

4 victims identified in Mojave shooting, but still no suspect

Kern County officials have released few details about Sunday's killings in an RV.

BY NATHAN SOLIS

Authorities on Wednesday identified the three women and one man who were shot to death in an RV in Mojave, Calif., this week, but after more than two days, not much else is known about the mass shooting that rattled this tiny desert community.

Anna Marie Hester, 34, Darius Travon Canada, 31, and Martina Barraza, 33, all of Mojave, and California City resident Faith Leighanne Rose Asbury, 20, were killed Sunday evening, according to the Kern County coroner's office.

Asbury was taken to a hospital Sunday night and died Monday, according to officials.

What was the nation's 185th mass shooting of 2023, according to the independent research group Gun Violence Archive, has received little media coverage in this remote desert area about 60 miles east of Bakersfield, and very little information has been provided by law enforcement.

Lori Meza, a spokesperson for the Kern County Sheriff's Office, said evidence was being processed. Homicide investigators have not disclosed a possible motive or any details about a suspect, but several hours after the shooting, sheriff's officials said the community was not under any immediate threat.

The Sheriff's Office did not immediately respond to a request for an interview Wednesday and in a statement said the investigation was in a "preliminary status" and there were currently no suspects.

"Kern County Sheriff's Office Homicide Detectives are diligently working this case, actively pursuing leads, and conducting investigative follow-up as well as working to ensure the investigation is thorough, lawful and factual," the statement from the Sheriff's Office said.

A spokesperson for Kern County Supervisor Zack Scrivner, who represents the Mojave area, declined to comment on the killings and deferred all questions to the Sheriff's Office.

Investigators are asking anyone who spotted suspicious activity in the area to come forward, Meza said.

If an agency notifies the community that there is no cause for alarm after a quadruple homicide, then law enforcement authorities probably have a good idea who their suspect is based on the evidence at the crime scene, said Joseph Giacalone, adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a retired New York Police Department sergeant who directed that agency's Homicide School and Cold Case Squad.

If that's not the case, Giacalone said, then investigators will need to rely on the public to help solve their investigation and get information out to the public.

"Getting it out into the media is an important step in solving these cases," he said. "I don't think there's a reluctance on that part, and if it is, it's foolish."

Kern County sheriff's deputies were called to a barren dirt lot on H Street in Mojave around 11:20 p.m. Sunday. Inside an RV, police found four people shot: a man and two women who were already dead, and a third woman who would die at a hospital, Meza said.

Investigators said they knew what caliber gun was used but did not find a weapon at the scene.

Kenny Heller, 62, whose property abuts the lot, heard the shots through a back window he'd left open to catch the night breeze: four in quick succession, he said.

The first RV showed up on the lot on H Street about a year and a half ago, Heller said. The grandmother of the RV's occupant once lived in a house next to the lot. But she fell behind on taxes and lost the house, Heller said. The home has since been fenced off, its windows and doors covered with plywood.

Police would come every once in a while and red-tag the RVs that gathered there, Heller said. People from the real estate company that owned the lot told the occupants to leave. But they stayed, the mounds of junk growing, syringes cast off in the dirt, he said.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

FOUR were slain in this RV in Mojave, Calif.

Another resident said the victims were homeless and spent most of their time in the area, which includes a vacant lot west of Highway 14 separated from the center of town by railroad tracks.

In 2021, Kern County had the highest homicide rate in California with 13.7 killings per 100,000 residents, according to a report from Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta. The statewide rate was 6 per 100,000.

After Sunday's mass killing, residents and groups that provide homeless services to the rural community were unsettled.

Anna Saavedra, who supervises the East Kern Family Resource Center in Mojave, said, "We're open, but we locked our doors."

The center offers a food pantry, emergency clothing services and parenting training.

The day after the shooting, there was no heavy media presence in Mojave.

Giacalone said it was possible that there is fatigue among the public when it comes to mass shootings.

On April 15, he noted, four people were killed and 32 injured when a gunman opened fire at a 16th birthday party in Dadeville, Ala. To Giacalone, coverage of the shooting did not last very long in the news cycle.

"I think the American people have kind of gotten desensitized to mass shootings," he said. "It's up to the news media to also pick up on these stories."

Anyone with information about the homicide investigation in Mojave is urged to contact the Kern County Sheriff's Office at (661) 861-3110, or leave an anonymous tip at (661) 322-4040.

Times staff reporter Matthew Ormseth contributed to this report.

State's native wildflowers can get squeezed out by invasive species

[**Invasive,** from B1]
but not native to the region.

The plants can strangle the annual blooms of native flowers and also pose fire danger as the plants propagate quickly and widely.

Some species of invasive plants thrive under conditions that also create superblooms, namely long, wet winters like the one California just experienced.

Invasive species may "seed earlier in the year; they grow faster; they shade out the native species, and they create a layer of thatch that the native species can't come out of," said Isabel Baer, environmental program manager for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's native plants program.

"They're also going to dry up sooner," she said. "They're going to dry up bigger, bushier."

When fires come along, Baer said, the plants ignite faster — and then they reseed before the native plants have a chance to do so.

Williams said that typically, with most of the native plant life, "everything that you're going to see that really is spectacular ... is hanging out underground as seeds."

"Very often you'll get a cover of invasive grasses, like Mediterranean grass ... that will cause there to be quick germination, and they can either crowd out the annuals" that haven't yet sprouted or, with wide propagation and faster ignition, "cause a change in the way that fire moves through the system."

The grasses can also kill "Joshua trees and a lot of the shrubs and the plants that are kind of holding down the fort in between the superblooms," she said.

It does not take a big population of invasive plants to dramatically change an ecosystem and tilt the balance away from nonnative plants.

"It can be as little as 15% invasive species," Williams said.

Invasive plant species are easily spread, including by humans. Black mustard is believed to have come to California with the Spanish missionaries. The plants continue to hitch a ride — via hikers and cars.

"If you think about people who are enjoying the superbloom and they are parking off the shoulder of the road in an area that has weeds, they can actually spread these weeds and make it less likely that there's a superbloom in the future," Williams said.

But people can enjoy the superblooms responsibly.

Volunteering for invasive-plant removal programs is one way native-plant fans can help combat the problem, Williams said.

"I never discount the persistent efforts of a few people who want to make a difference," she said.

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO. 30-2023-01321978
Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Robert M. Stone,
SBN: 104936
SIMON MCKINSEY MILLER & STONE
2750 Bellflower Blvd., Suite 100, LONG BEACH, CA 90815
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner:
PAMELA J.B. FISHBEIN
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name:
PAMELA J.B. FISHBEIN
Proposed Name:
PAMELA JENIECE BURKET
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: **06/22/2023**
TIME: **8:30 AM**
DEPT: **D100**
ROOM:
Remote Appearance
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Orange 700 Civic Center Drive W, Santa Ana, CA 92701
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: 04/28/2023
Layne H. Melzer
Judge of the Superior Court
Published in the
Daily Pilot
Dates of Publication:
05/05/23, 05/12/23, 05/19/23, 05/26/23

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS
State of California,
Los Angeles County Superior Court
Stanley Mosk Courthouse,
111 N. Hill Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Case No. 22STCV06510
Assigned to Hon. Ronald Frank,
Inglewood Courthouse, Dept. 8

Notice to Defendant: SHLOMO RECHNITZ

You are Being Sued by Plaintiffs:
BARBARA BENSON, Deceased, by and through her Successor in Interest DANIEL BENSON; and DANIEL BENSON Individually

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.couffinfo.ca.govlselfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service, If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California I egal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courlinfo.ca.govlselfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $ 10,000 or more in a civil case, The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without attorney is: **Kimberly A. Valentine, Esq. (SBN 195891), Valentine Law Group, APC, 26021 Acero, Mission Viejo, CA 92691, (949) 265-9272.**

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as an individual defendant by Los Angeles Times. Publish Dates: April 14, 2023; April 21, 2023; April 28, 2023; and May 5, 2023

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PLAAH
FYHET
RRAYTO
SWNERT

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I'm not sure how to explain this.
Why would they come here?
5/5
WHEN THE ALIEN SHIP LANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN, PEOPLE THERE SAID ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

?

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HIPPO KHAKI CAUCUS SUPPLY
Answer: His new F-150 truck had arrived at the dealer, so he went there to — PICK UP A PICKUP

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso):
22AHCV01253

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Noah Michael Gomez; Jose Gomez and Does 1 to 20

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Joann Chun Sun Lee

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can located these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo prolegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puedo encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y hiener sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Alhambra Courthouse
150 West Commonwealth
Alhambra, CA 91801

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
Anthony Janji, Esq.
1609 West Valley Blvd Suite 108
Alhambra, CA 91803
(626) 300-9900

Date: 12/08/2022

Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court (Secretario)
Edward Madrid Deputy (Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times 4/3/2023, 4/10/2023, 4/17/2023, 4/24/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

FDIC

PUBLICATION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEPOSITORS OF SILICON VALLEY BANK SANTA CLARA, CA

On **March 10, 2023** (the "Closing Date"), the **California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation** closed **Silicon Valley Bank, Santa Clara, CA** (the "Failed Institution") and appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (the "FDIC") as Receiver (the "Receiver") to handle all matters relating to the Failed Institution.

TO THE CREDITORS OF THE FAILED INSTITUTION

All creditors having claims against the Failed Institution must submit their claims in writing, together with proof of the claims, to the Receiver **on or before July 10, 2023** (the "Claims Bar Date"). You may submit your proof of claim form via our interactive FDIC Claims Portal at https://resolutions.fdic.gov/claimsportal/s/, the FDIC website at https://www.fdic.gov/resources/forms/deposit-claims-and-asset-sales/index.html, or by calling 972-761-8677.

Claims may be submitted through the FDIC Claims Portal, or mailed to the following address:

FDIC as Receiver of
Silicon Valley Bank
600 North Pearl Street, Suite 700
Dallas, TX 75201
Attention: Claim Agent **10539**

Under federal law 12 U.S.C. Section 1821(d)(5)(C), failure to file a claim on or before the Claims Bar Date will result in the Receiver disallowing the claim. The disallowance is final.

NOTE TO CLASS CLAIMANTS: By law, the Receiver will not accept a claim filed on behalf of a proposed class of individuals or entities or a class of individuals or entities certified by a court. EACH individual or entity must file a separate claim with the Receiver.

TO THE DEPOSITORS OF SILICON VALLEY BANK

On **March 10, 2023,** the FDIC, which insures your deposits in its corporate capacity, arranged for the transfer of all deposits ("Deposits") - including the uninsured amounts – to **SILICON VALLEY BRIDGE BANK, N.A.** On **March 27, 2023**, the **Office of the Comptroller of the Currency** closed **SILICON VALLEY BRIDGE BANK, N.A., SANTA CLARA, CA** and appointed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as Receiver to handle all matters relating to the Failed Institution. Please see the Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, N.A. publication notice for information about your deposits or visit www.FDIC.gov.

LEGAL NOTICE

FDIC

PUBLICATION NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEPOSITORS OF SILICON VALLEY BRIDGE BANK, N.A. SANTA CLARA, CA

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Claims may be submitted through the FDIC Claims Portal, or mailed to the following address:

FDIC as Receiver of
Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, N.A.
600 North Pearl Street, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75201
Attention: Claim Agent **10542**

Under federal law 12 U.S.C. Section 1821(d)(5)(C), failure to file a claim on or before the Claims Bar Date will result in the Receiver disallowing the claim. The disallowance is final.

NOTE TO CLASS CLAIMANTS: By law, the Receiver will not accept a claim filed on behalf of a proposed class of individuals or entities or a class of individuals or entities certified by a court. EACH individual or entity must file a separate claim with the Receiver.

TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE FAILED INSTITUTION

The FDIC, which insures your deposits in its corporate capacity, arranged for the transfer of all deposits ("Deposits") - including the uninsured amounts - at the Failed Institution to another insured depository institution, **First–Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Raleigh, NC** (the "New Institution"). This arrangement should minimize any inconvenience from the closing of the Failed Institution.

All deposits were fully insured and transferred to **First–Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Raleigh, NC.** If you disagree with the FDIC's determination of your insurance coverage as represented by the account(s) made available at the New Institution, you may request a review of the FDIC's determination in the United States District Court where the Failed Institution was located. You must request this review no later than 60 days after the date on which your deposits became available to you at **First–Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Raleigh, NC.** Requesting a review will not prevent you from using the funds in your new account.

You may leave your Deposits in the New Institution, but you must take action to claim ownership of your Deposits. Under federal law (Unclaimed Deposits Amendments Act of 1993 (12 U.S.C. Section 1822(e)), you must claim ownership of your deposits at **First–Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Raleigh, NC** within eighteen (18) months from the Closing Date, which is **September 27, 2024. Official Items issued by the Failed Institution; such as, cashier's checks, dividend checks, interest checks, expense checks, and money orders are considered Deposits and must also be claimed within 18 months from the Closing Date**. You may claim your deposits at **First–Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Raleigh, NC** by taking any one of the following actions. If you have more than one deposit account, your action will automatically claim your deposits for all accounts.

1. Make a deposit to or withdrawal from your account(s), including writing a check on any account, automatic direct deposits, or automatic withdrawals.
2. Execute a new signature card on your account(s), enter into a new deposit agreement with the New Institution, change the ownership on your account(s), or renegotiate the terms of your certificate of deposit account(s).
3. Provide the New Institution with a completed change of address form.
4. Write to the New Institution at the address below and ask that your account(s) remain active. In your letter, include the type of the account(s): checking, savings, money market, etc., the name(s) on the account(s), the account number(s), and the signature of an authorized signer on the account(s), with your name and address.

3003 Tasman Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95054

If you do not claim ownership of your Deposits at the New Institution by **September 27, 2024**, federal law requires these unclaimed deposits be transferred to the State's Unclaimed Property Division, according to your address listed with the Failed Institution. If your address is outside of the United States, the FDIC will deliver your deposits to the State in which the Failed Institution had its main office. According to the Unclaimed Deposits Amendments Act of 1993 (12 U.S.C. Section 1822(e)), **you will have ten years to claim your deposits from the State's Unclaimed Property Division according to the state's unclaimed property laws. If you do not claim your deposits from the State within the ten-year period, federal law prohibits you from claiming your deposits.**

If the State does not take custody of your Deposits, after the 18-month period, you may claim your Deposits from the FDIC until the receivership is terminated. A receivership can be terminated at any time. Once the receivership terminates, you will not be able to claim your deposits.

If you have a loan with the Failed Institution, and you would like to discuss offsetting your insured and/or uninsured Deposit(s) against the loan, visit the FDIC Claims Portal (https://resolutions.fdic.gov/claimsportal/s/), or call 972-761-2112.

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Dogs

BOXER

PUREBRED BOXER PUPPIES 4 males (3 Fawn & 1 Reverse Brindle) and 1 female (Reverse Brindle) Boxer puppy. Tails docked, dew claws removed, 1st set of shots, vet wellness check with documented health booklet, and dewormed. Loving, playful and intelligent. Parents on site. Will be ready for their new home on June 5th, 2023. $600 deposit to hold one. $1200 total. Call or text me to come see them. Post Falls, ID **(208) 916-5681**

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Photographs by GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

SAMUEL SOLIS JR. at the front counter of Taco Boy. The business suffered just one robbery before last fall, but since then its two locations have weathered seven break-ins, including two in five days last month.

Thieves force taqueria to adapt

[**Arellano,** from B1]

"Families would go to Northgate, then come here," Samuel Jr. added. He remembers early morning trips to L.A. with his dad for produce and tortillas, and napping on 50-pound bags of beans.

"At first, it's like a prison," his father added, speaking over the chintzy grupero music that blared from an electronic jukebox. "You have to be here seven days a week, 15 hours a day. Eventually, it gets easier."

Taco Boy quickly became an Anaheim institution. With a partner, Solis was able to buy the gleaming white building that houses his restaurant and three other businesses. Another Taco Boy opened in Anaheim, run by Samuel Jr. and his uncle. Samuel Sr. earned a reputation as a kindhearted owner, the type who gave out free bean-and-cheese burritos to those who needed a meal and looked the other way if homeless people bathed in his restrooms.

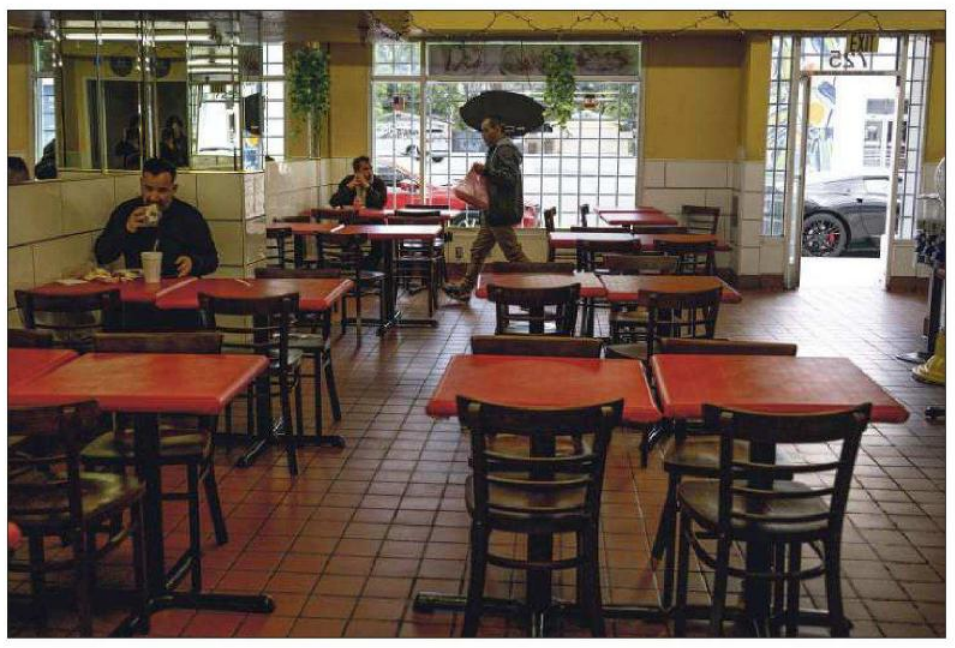
My family and friends haunted the place for years. I stop in every once in a while, not just to conjure up Proustian memories but because the no-frills menu — tacos, burritos, sopes, quesadillas, with menudo on Sundays — is still delicious.

"The main word here," said the 40-year-old Samuel Jr., "is history."

Samuel Sr. should be in the autumn of his life. He officially retired this year while remaining Taco Boy's owner. But when I sat down with the two Samuels recently, they looked beleaguered.

It's been a rough couple of years. Lorenzo Camacho, the uncle of Samuel Sr.'s wife and his right-hand man, died of COVID-19 at the end of 2020; a large photo of him hangs near the cash register. The pandemic forced the family to cut back hours. Taquerias now cover Anaheim, and rival taco joints stand just blocks away.

Now, Taco Boy has become victim to the rash of burglaries afflicting restaurants across Southern California that seem to be getting more and more brazen.



THE SOLIS family has filed police reports, but the cases remain outstanding. Samuel Sr. thinks Anaheim should beef up security in the neighborhood.

The Tex-Mex chain HomeState suffered so many break-ins at its Sherman Oaks location that it announced in February that it would no longer accept cash. In March, thieves hit seven eateries in Rancho Santa Margarita in half an hour. Last week, 10 Glendale restaurants saw burglaries in just one Saturday morning. This week, two gun-wielding men held up Lucy's Drive-In in Mid-City — the first time that my favorite place in Southern California for a chile relleno burrito had experienced anything like this.

Samuel Sr. said his business had suffered just one robbery before last fall. Since then, his two locations have weathered seven break-ins, including two in five days last month. The last time, the register at the original one was left open and empty, as if to let anyone who broke in know there was nothing left to take. Thieves still took off with a card reader and unsuccessfully tried to draw $10,000 from the restaurant's account.

"This is what I do now," Solis quietly said. He pulled up an app on his cellphone. It showed live footage from the 14 security cameras at his Taco Boys. "I can't even sleep right now because I'm worried."

He then pulled up footage that showed a man prying open a cash register at the original location some months ago. The front and bottom glass panes of the front door were smashed in.

"There was $100 in there. They left $40 in quarters, so they took $60."

Solis paused. "The machine cost $2,000. It was destroyed."

I tried to look away, but Solis urged me to keep watching. "Look, he's going for the sodas!" he said with a bitter laugh. "He took three Cokes."

Samuel Jr. looked on with a grimace. "It's frustrating. You feel helpless, useless. They walk away with money, and we walk away with an insurance claim."

"Not even," his father responded. "The damage we get doesn't even reach our deductible, so we have to pay out of pocket."

The family has filed police reports, but their cases remain outstanding. Samuel Sr. thinks Anaheim should beef up security in the neighborhood.

"But they're not going to have a police car circle around here," he said. "Because these burglaries aren't just happening around here."

"I don't want to blame the pandemic, but it changed a lot of people's minds," his son said. "Kids didn't go to school and are now out on the streets. Things seemed to be going up for a bit [after lockdowns were lifted], but a lot of things have gone backwards."

Father and son are matter-of-fact men who tried not to show much emotion during our talk. But weariness underlined their voices as they described what's next. Taco Boy has two huge windows that offer a panoramic view of Anaheim Boulevard. After 35 years, the Solises decided to install iron bars on them.

"It's going to change the aesthetic, but oh well," Samuel Sr. said. "If we try to keep it nice like how it is, [the break-ins are] going to continue."

"Things aren't going to change, but we have to adapt," Samuel Jr. said. He stayed quiet. "It's painful. We've been conducting business forever. To have people mistreat us this way … ."

The two Samuels bid me farewell. Cleavers thumped in the background as I got up to put in my usual order: an al pastor burrito and an horchata.

Taco Boy's lunch rush never came. When I left, I noticed the sliding iron gate at the bar next door was covered in graffiti.

Restaurants like Taco Boy are the canary in the coal mine of local economies. They're where we go to relax and commiserate and eat. When the people who run them are under siege, so are the rest of us.

Feinstein still could face a long road to recovery

[**Feinstein,** from B1]

painful, sometimes for weeks and months. For some, it never goes away and can be disabling."

For anyone who had a bout of chickenpox (or varicella) as a child — and that means virtually every American now over the age of about 30 — the threat of shingles begins to escalate around the midcentury mark. Over a lifetime, an unvaccinated person who once had chickenpox has a roughly 1-in-3 chance of developing the painful, blistering rash.

While the rash most often spreads across one side of the scalp, neck, back or buttocks, the reactivated varicella zoster virus is capable of worse.

In as many as 20% of cases, the virus can travel up the optic nerve and enter the eye, causing severe eye pain, glaucoma or vision loss. In rarer cases, it can enter the brain, causing inflammation and swelling that can result in stroke-like symptoms. In people with extremely compromised immune systems, the virus can cause a rash across both sides of the body, a sign that it may be entering and attacking organs.

Any of these worst-case scenarios would land a shingles patient in the hospital. And any are likely to leave a patient worse off for some time.

For his oldest patients especially, Shah said, "it is devastating. You have to give patients six months or more to figure out where they land." As many as half of those who get shingles at the age of 85 or over will end up with damaged nerves and chronic nerve pain, studies show.

To treat that pain, doctors prescribe a wide range of drugs that can cause sedation and dizziness. For seniors especially, some of those can raise the risk of falls and other mishaps that can be the undoing even of seniors who are still largely healthy, said Dr. David H. Canaday, an infectious-disease physician at Case Western Reserve University medical school.

"We see it in patients even who are not very elderly or frail," Canaday said. "If something afflicts you that makes you move less, become less active for awhile, that can start a tremendous downward spiral."

A case of shingles also raises the risk of stroke and heart attacks. In a study published in December, researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston found that people who suffered a bout of shingles were 30% more likely than those who did not to have a cardiovascular event that required hospital treatment. The heightened risk persisted for at least 12 years after shingles had gone away.

For some patients who recognize shingles quickly, a prompt course of antiviral drugs can shorten the infection's course and lessen its severity. But prevention is a better bet.

In 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a two-dose vaccine capable of preventing shingles in adults ages 50 and over for at least a decade. Large clinical trials found that Shingrix reduced the risk of shingles by 97% in people 50 and older, and by 90% in those 70 and older. It has replaced an earlier but less effective vaccine of a different design, Zostavax, which had been available since 2006.

> Shingles 'can be terribly painful, sometimes for weeks and months. For some, it never goes away and can be disabling.'
>
> — DR. AMIT A. SHAH, Mayo Clinic geriatrician

While there is some evidence for a link between shingles and subsequent dementia, that relationship is still murky.

Dr. Sharon E. Curhan, who led the research team linking shingles to cardiovascular events, has combed through years of data collected by the Nurses' Health Study and several large studies that built on it. Her team has explored whether cognitive decline is more common after a case of shingles. The findings are expected to be published soon.

KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

SEN. DIANNE Feinstein (D-Calif.), shown Feb. 14, said in March that she was hospitalized for shingles.

2 USC students held in NFL jersey theft

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

Two USC journalism students covering the NFL draft were arrested while boarding a plane back to Los Angeles in the theft of more than $1,000 worth of first-round draft-pick jerseys, according to the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department.

The students, Eric Lambkins II and Jude Ocañas, had been in Kansas City, Mo., last week covering the NFL draft for the student-run multiplatform news outlet known as Annenberg Media, which operates under the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, according to USC's journalism school publication.

Video surveillance showed the two students around 1:20 a.m. Friday entering areas connected to the NFL draft where they did not have access, according to the Police Department. The NFL identified them as Ocañas and Lambkins, police said.

Lambkins and Ocañas entered into the "talent waiting room," with Lambkins holding a bag, according to police. They stayed in the room about five minutes before leaving with the bag looking "fuller," police said.

The two were not given credentials to enter the "talent waiting room," the vice president of security for the NFL told police.

Three jerseys were stolen from the room, according to the NFL. The stolen items were a San Francisco 49ers jersey, a Dallas Cowboys jersey and a Minnesota Vikings jersey. They all had the number "1" printed on the back with no players' names.

"These jerseys are used to give to players selected in the first round of the NFL draft and have a very sentimental meaning," Kansas City police Det. Craig Leach wrote in a report.

Officers arrested Lambkins and Ocañas just before they were to board a flight back to Los Angeles, according to police.

Police searched the students' baggage and found the Cowboys and 49ers jerseys, according to the probable cause statement form filed by police. The missing Vikings jersey was not mentioned among the recovered items.

Lambkins, a graduate student and Los Angeles native who is a U.S. Army veteran, has worked for the last two years covering sports for the Culver City Observer and the Good News Radio.

Ocañas is an undergrad journalism major, according to USC Annenberg Media.

The trip to cover the draft was paid for by the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

"While limited by student privacy laws in what we can share, we are cooperating with the authorities in this matter and will follow our internal processes with respect to any allegations of misconduct," USC said in a statement.

Ocañas could not be reached for comment. Lambkins referred comment to his attorney, David Bell, who issued this statement:

"Out of respect for our system of justice, we are not going to comment on the evidence outside of the courtroom," Bell said. "We are confident that the unique set of circumstances in this case, combined with the extraordinary reputations of Mr. Lambkins and Mr. Ocañas, will result in a fair and equitable resolution to all parties involved."

Obituaries

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Search obituary notice archives: legacy.com/obituaries/latimes

Mona Weichman Bilson

February 20, 1933 - April 28, 2023

Mona passed away peacefully on April 28th at the age of 90, surrounded by family who will greatly miss her. She is survived by her son Danny Bilson, daughter Julie Bilson Ahlberg, sister Naomi Ritz, ex-husband Bruce Bilson, six grandchildren, John Pierce, Rachel Bilson, Sidney and Suki Sekula, Hattie and Rosemary Bilson, a great granddaughter Briar Rose Christensen and soon to be born great granddaughter, Everly Rae Pierce as well as nieces, Melinda and Jana Ritz.

A memorial will be set at a later date.

In Memoriam

Robert "Bob" Redlin

June 1943 - May 2020

Memories of you and beloved beagle Arwen are cherished by Christine, Mariel, Nick, Anne and so many others.

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Drier, still cool: The chance of showers will be much lower today than it was Thursday as an area of low pressure unwinds into an open trough and shifts north and east of the region. A shower or two in the early morning along the immediate coast and foothills will be possible as a trailing wave of energy swings quickly through. Temperatures will remain below average.

5-day forecasts

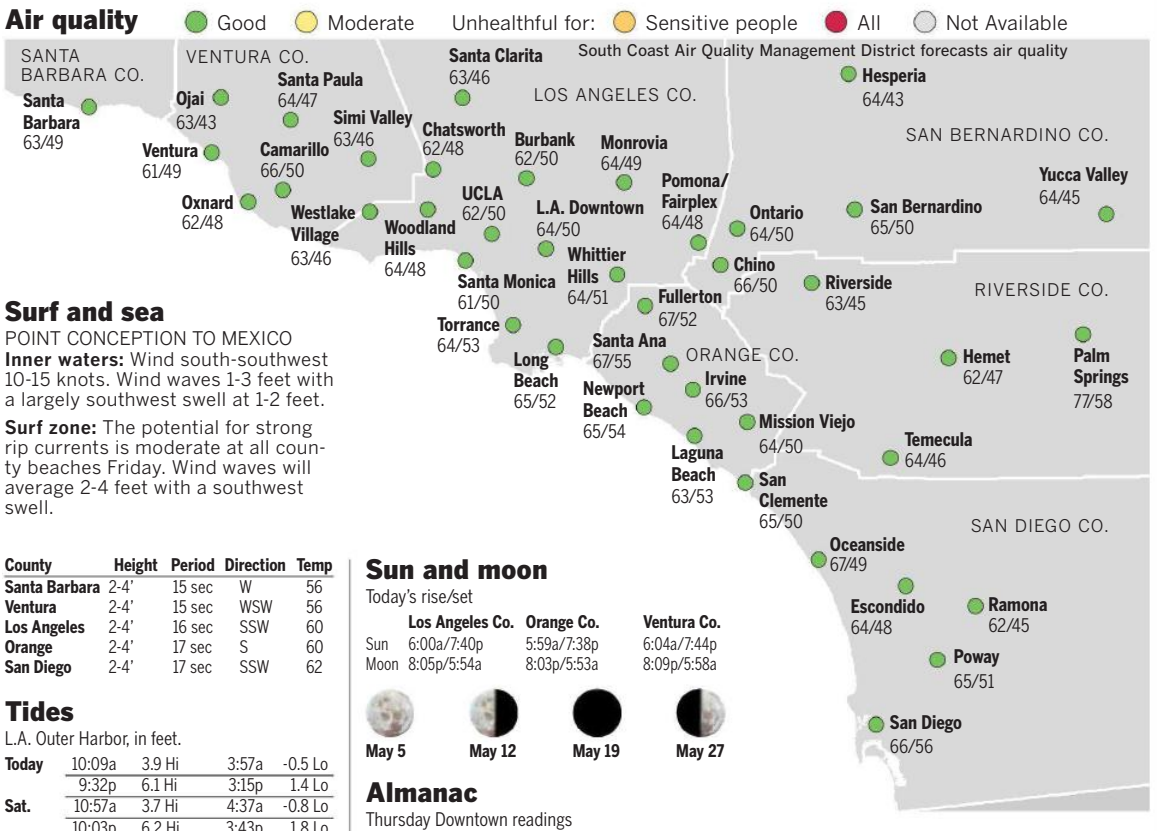
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	64|50		62|48		61|50		49|31		77|58	
	A stray a.m. shower		A shower or two		A morning shower		Partly sunny; cold		Breezy in the p.m.	
Saturday	Clouds, sun	65/53	Partly sunny	67/51	Clouds, sun	62/52	Mostly sunny	55/31	Breezy	80/59
Sunday	Mostly sunny	68/54	Mostly sunny	69/51	Partly sunny	63/52	Sunny	59/36	Sunny	84/61
Monday	Mostly sunny	69/52	Mostly sunny	75/53	Mostly sunny	65/54	Mostly sunny	61/36	Sunny	94/66
Tuesday	Mostly sunny	69/56	Mostly sunny	69/52	Mostly sunny	66/53	Mostly sunny	62/35	Breezy	92/63

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind south-southwest 10-15 knots. Wind waves 1-3 feet with a largely southwest swell at 1-2 feet.

Surf zone: The potential for strong rip currents is moderate at all county beaches Friday. Wind waves will average 2-4 feet with a southwest swell.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	2-4'	15 sec	W	56
Ventura	2-4'	15 sec	WSW	56
Los Angeles	2-4'	16 sec	SSW	60
Orange	2-4'	17 sec	S	60
San Diego	2-4'	17 sec	SSW	62

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	10:09a	3.9 Hi	3:57a	-0.5 Lo
	9:32p	6.1 Hi	3:15p	1.4 Lo
Sat.	10:57a	3.7 Hi	4:37a	-0.8 Lo
	10:03p	6.2 Hi	3:43p	1.8 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25 · Phoenix, 10
Los Angeles, 25 · San Francisco, 45

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:00a/7:40p	5:59a/7:38p	6:04a/7:44p
Moon	8:05p/5:54a	8:03p/5:53a	8:09p/5:58a

May 5 · May 12 · May 19 · May 27

Almanac

Thursday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	66/52	66/52	60/48
Normal high/low	73/57	76/56	69/50
High/low a year ago	75/57	79/56	67/54
Record high/date	93/1987	93/2018	91/1953
Record low/date	44/1899	50/1999	40/1964

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.50	0.60	0.93
Season total (since Oct. 1)	28.02	21.16	26.37
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.33
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	13.74	11.35	15.64
Humidity (high/low)	92/48	100/46	92/59

California cities

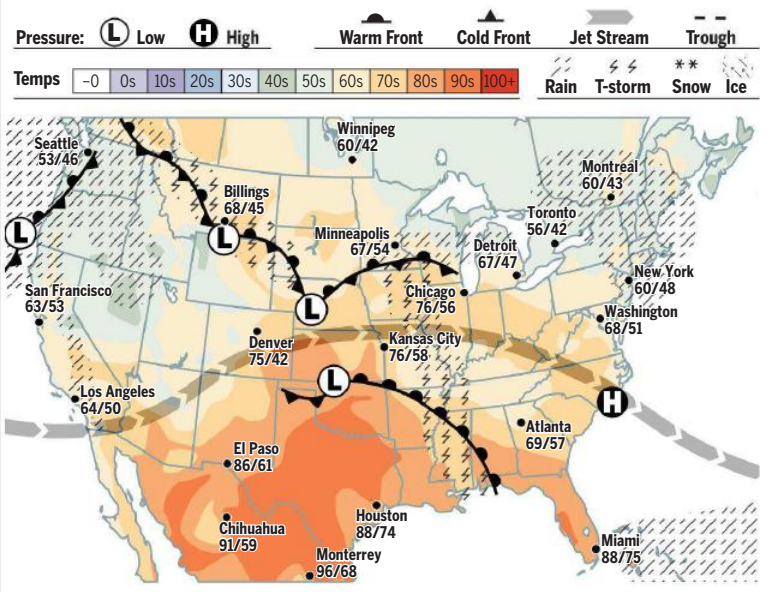
City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Saturday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	69	50	1.43	66	51	67	54
Avalon/Catalina	59	49	--	56	47	56	48
Bakersfield	70	50	.11	69	53	70	51
Barstow	68	50	--	72	51	75	53
Big Bear Lake	34	29	.33	49	31	55	31
Bishop	59	42	--	65	39	67	39
Burbank	61	50	.78	62	50	66	52
Camarillo	63	49	.91	66	50	68	49
Chatsworth	62	48	.54	62	48	65	49
Chino	65	49	.67	66	50	68	49
Compton	63	53	.16	66	52	68	53
Dana Point	62	54	.11	64	51	63	54
Death Valley	80	64	--	84	74	83	71
Del Mar	62	55	.08	60	54	60	54
Escondido	66	52	.23	64	48	66	50
Eureka	53	48	.03	57	48	54	45
Fallbrook	65	52	.59	64	47	66	48
Fresno	65	50	.25	70	52	72	50
Fullerton	66	52	.60	67	52	69	55
Hemet	59	46	.42	62	47	67	46
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	64	43	68	45
Huntington Beach	69	52	.57	64	53	65	56
Idyllwild	42	33	.48	49	40	58	42
Irvine	62	53	.33	66	53	66	56

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Saturday Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	66	52	.50	64	50	65	53
L.A. Int'l. Airport	64	53	.13	64	53	63	54
Laguna Beach	69	55	.13	63	53	63	56
Lancaster	58	42	.13	63	44	65	49
Long Beach	65	53	.47	65	52	66	55
Mammoth Lakes	46	21	--	46	29	47	26
Mission Viejo	63	50	.38	64	50	66	54
Monrovia	59	47	1.01	64	49	66	52
Monterey	58	46	.02	63	54	63	51
Mt. Wilson	xx	xx	xx	38	35	44	42
Needles	78	63	--	80	57	82	62
Newport Beach	62	54	.49	65	54	65	58
Northridge	63	48	.87	64	49	67	51
Oakland	60	49	--	62	53	62	50
Oceanside	66	54	.20	67	49	67	51
Ojai	63	44	.60	63	43	64	44
Ontario	63	47	.69	64	50	66	51
Palm Springs	73	56	Tr	77	58	80	59
Pasadena	61	48	2.28	61	48	66	52
Paso Robles	65	47	.17	64	42	66	47
Redding	61	54	--	58	49	61	46
Riverside	62	47	.32	63	45	66	47
Sacramento	61	51	Tr	65	51	67	45
San Bernardino	57	48	.73	65	50	70	49

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Saturday Hi	Lo
San Diego	67	58	.07	66	56	67	57
San Francisco	60	51	.01	63	53	62	51
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	63	50	67	52
San Jose	61	48	.03	66	53	67	51
San Luis Obispo	63	50	.21	62	45	66	50
Santa Ana	65	54	.32	67	55	66	58
Santa Barbara	65	49	.37	63	49	66	49
Santa Clarita	53	47	.42	63	46	65	48
Santa Monica Pier	63	50	--	61	50	62	52
Santa Paula	62	46	--	64	47	66	47
Santa Rosa	65	47	--	58	49	62	43
Simi Valley	61	48	.37	63	46	66	48
Tahoe Valley	43	33	.12	44	34	42	29
Temecula	63	50	.48	64	46	69	47
Thousand Oaks	60	48	.89	63	46	65	48
Torrance	70	54	--	64	53	63	54
UCLA	61	51	.62	62	50	63	53
Van Nuys	xx	xx	xx	64	49	67	51
Ventura	60	48	.93	61	49	62	49
Whittier Hills	68	51	.53	64	51	66	54
Woodland Hills	62	48	.76	64	48	67	50
Wrightwood	43	30	.39	49	38	53	40
Yorba Linda	67	50	.45	64	49	67	52
Yosemite Valley	46	39	.04	48	38	49	30

Today in North America

Gulf Coast storms, Northwest flooding: Severe storms will move east into Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, where hail and flooding downpours will be the main threat. In the Northwest, the combination of rain and melting snow could result in stream and river flooding.



U.S. cities

THURSDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 94 in San Angelo, Texas · **Low** 19 in Ryegate, Mont.

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	60	45	.05	60	42	Sh
Albuquerque	79	59	.01	77	48	Pc
Anchorage	45	32	.07	51	37	Su
Aspen	62	43	.01	57	32	Pc
Atlanta	75	50	--	69	57	Cy
Austin	83	60	--	86	69	Ts
Baltimore	65	40	--	67	48	Pc
Boise	74	60	.18	54	44	R
Boston	50	44	.01	51	46	Sh
Buffalo	52	44	.10	60	40	Cy
Burlington, Vt.	53	45	.02	60	41	Cy
Charleston, S.C.	77	48	--	77	62	Pc
Charlotte	73	44	--	74	57	Cy
Chicago	72	42	--	76	56	Pc
Cincinnati	67	35	--	74	50	Hz
Cleveland	61	47	Tr	66	45	Pc
Columbia, S.C.	75	40	--	76	61	Pc
Columbus	64	38	--	71	47	Pc
Dallas/Ft.Worth	85	63	Tr	94	69	Ts
Denver	77	50	.03	75	42	Pc
Detroit	65	40	--	67	47	Pc
El Paso	87	66	--	86	61	W
Eugene	61	48	.01	59	48	Cy
Fort Myers	88	65	--	91	70	Su
Hartford	59	45	.17	60	42	Sh
Honolulu	85	73	Tr	84	74	R
Houston	82	63	--	88	74	Pc
Indianapolis	68	38	--	73	51	Hz
Jacksonville, Fla.	84	49	--	81	66	Pc
Kansas City	74	44	Tr	76	58	Cy
Knoxville	70	39	--	70	54	R
Las Vegas	68	57	Tr	72	55	Pc
Louisville	73	44	--	76	55	Cy
Medford	64	52	.01	59	47	Cy
Memphis	78	50	.05	66	63	R
Miami	88	69	--	88	75	Pc
Milwaukee	63	44	--	68	52	Pc
Minneapolis	77	53	--	67	54	Cy
Nashville	74	42	--	66	56	R
New Orleans	87	65	--	85	75	Ts
New York	55	48	.04	60	48	Cy
Norfolk	64	50	Tr	69	52	Pc
Oklahoma City	62	55	1.02	89	62	Su
Omaha	84	47	--	72	60	Cy
Orlando	87	61	--	86	69	Su
Philadelphia	60	45	Tr	63	47	Pc
Phoenix	83	64	--	81	61	Pc
Pittsburgh	55	44	.07	67	43	Pc
Portland, Ore.	58	52	.60	57	49	Cy
Providence	50	42	Tr	55	44	Sh
Raleigh/Durham	70	43	--	74	54	Cy
Reno	61	42	Tr	56	41	Sh
Richmond	68	47	Tr	72	48	Cy
St. Louis	77	45	--	70	57	Cy
Salt Lake City	75	57	.02	63	45	Cy

City	Thursday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	56	49	Tr	53	46	Sh
Tampa	84	65	--	90	72	Su
Tucson	84	58	--	81	55	Su
Tulsa	62	54	.57	86	67	Pc
Washington, D.C.	64	47	Tr	68	51	Pc
Wichita	74	54	Tr	79	58	Su

World

Acapulco	90	74	.04	91	76	Cy
Amsterdam	70	45	--	64	47	Ts
Athens	70	55	--	68	59	Ts
Bangkok	99	84	--	101	84	Pc
Barcelona	68	59	--	72	58	Pc
Berlin	66	39	--	68	47	Pc
Cabo San Lucas	88	66	--	86	70	Hz
Cairo	93	64	--	91	64	W
Dubai	93	73	--	91	73	Su
Dublin	58	46	.74	62	48	Ts
Havana	86	70	--	90	72	Sh
Ho Chi Minh City	97	84	--	99	83	Ts
Hong Kong	87	77	.13	87	78	Ts
Istanbul	68	54	.28	61	54	Cy
Jerusalem	83	58	--	91	57	Pc
Johannesburg	72	53	--	75	55	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	92	77	.52	90	77	R
Lima	76	69	--	76	69	Pc
London	66	46	--	64	51	Ts
Madrid	79	61	--	83	51	Pc
Mecca	106	72	--	105	81	Su
Mexico City	82	58	.05	80	57	Cy
Montreal	54	43	.09	60	43	Pc
Moscow	57	36	--	50	32	R
Mumbai	90	81	--	91	82	Su
New Delhi	88	65	--	94	75	Hz
Paris	73	52	--	68	53	Ts
Prague	61	36	--	70	50	Pc
Rome	72	54	--	73	53	Su
Seoul	79	55	.31	67	58	R
Singapore	89	79	.22	90	79	Ts
Taipei City	84	72	--	94	76	Pc
Tokyo	75	61	--	76	66	W
Vancouver	67	54	--	55	48	Sh
Vienna	66	45	--	72	51	Pc

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Thursday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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NHL PLAYOFFS

Panthers rally for 2-0 edge in series

WIRE REPORTS

Sergei Bobrovsky made 35 saves and the Florida Panthers defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-2 on Thursday night to take a 2-0 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Anton Lundell had a goal and an assist and Aleksander Barkov and Gustav Forsling also scored for Florida, which entered the playoffs as the second wild-card team and upset Boston in the first round.

Ryan O'Reilly and Alexander Kerfoot scored for host Toronto, which blew an early 2-0 lead. Ilya Samsonov stopped 26 shots.

Toronto led 2-1 following a spirited, chippy first period. Trouble found the Maple Leafs in the second.

Barkov tied the score 19 seconds into the period on a long shot for his second goal of the postseason. Less than a minute later, there was some sloppy play by Toronto in the defensive zone when Mitch Marner flipped an ill-advised pass to Auston Matthews, who couldn't get it out of the zone.

Florida quickly countered as Forsling finished off a setup by Matthew Tkachuk — his fourth of the series — for his second and a 3-2 lead.

The Maple Leafs took a while to recover before William Nylander hit the post with a shot that also hit Bobrovsky in the back and stayed out. Florida defenseman Brandon Montour then hit the post at the other end.

Toronto captain John Tavares had a great chance in front before Josh Mahura took a Nylander shot off the visor that left a trail of blood on the ice as he exited for the locker room. The Panthers defenseman returned for the third period.

Toronto came out for the third with plenty of urgency but couldn't solve Bobrovsky, who has started to rediscover his Vezina Trophy-winning form in these playoffs after losing the starting job late in the regular season to third-stringer Alex Lyon.

at Dallas 4, Seattle 2: Joe Pavelski scored his fifth goal in two games since returning from concussion protocol with an assist from Wyatt Johnston, his 19-year-old rookie housemate who also scored a goal to lift Dallas and tie the second-round series at a game each.

Evgenii Dadonov added a nifty wraparound goal and Tyler Seguin scored for the Stars, who as in their first-round series against Minnesota, bounced back from an overtime loss at home in the opener to get even before hitting the road.

Game 3 is Sunday night in Seattle.

Etc.

Adam Fox of the New York Rangers, Erik Karlsson of the San Jose Sharks and Cale Makar of the Colorado Avalanche are finalists for the Norris Trophy for best defenseman. ... Czech forward Petr Klima, a Stanley Cup winner with the Edmonton Oilers in 1990, has died. He was 58. The cause of death was not given in an announcement by his former club HC Litvinov and Kadan, where Klima previously worked as the general manager.

CHRIS YOUNG Associated Press

MAPLE LEAFS GOALIE Ilya Samsonov hugs the post as the Panthers' Carter Verhaeghe tumbles with Morgan Rielly. Florida erased a two-goal deficit to win.

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE
SECOND ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

WC1 Seattle vs. C2 Dallas
Series tied 1-1

Gm 1	Seattle 5, Dallas 4 (OT)
Gm 2	Dallas 4, Seattle 2
Gm 3	Sunday at Seattle, 6:30
Gm 4	Tuesday at Seattle, 6:30
Gm 5	Thursday at Dallas, TBD *
Gm 6	May 13 at Seattle, TBD*
Gm 7	May 15 at Dallas, TBD*

P2 Edmonton vs. P1 Vegas
Golden Knights lead series 1-0

Gm 1	Vegas 6, Edmonton 4
Gm 2	Saturday at Vegas, 4
Gm 3	Monday at Edmonton, 5:30
Gm 4	Wednesday at Edmonton, 7
Gm 5	May 12 at Vegas, TBD*
Gm 6	May 14 at Edmonton, TBD*
Gm 7	May 16 at Vegas, TBD*

All times PDT, p.m. unless noted

EASTERN CONFERENCE

A2 Toronto vs. WC2 Florida
Panthers lead series 2-0

Gm 1	Florida 4, Toronto 2
Gm 2	Florida 3, Toronto 2
Gm 3	Sunday at Florida, 3:30
Gm 4	Wednesday at Florida, 4
Gm 5	May 12 at Toronto, TBD*
Gm 6	May 14 at Florida, TBD*
Gm 7	May 16 at Toronto, TBD*

M1 Carolina vs. M2 New Jersey
Hurricanes lead series 1-0

Gm 1	Carolina 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 2	Tonight at Carolina, 5
Gm 3	Sunday at N.J., 12:30
Gm 4	Tuesday at New Jersey, 4
Gm 5	Thursday at Carolina, TBD*
Gm 6	May 13 at N.J., TBD*
Gm7	May 15 at Carolina, TBD*

* if necessary

Panthers 3, Maple Leafs 2

Florida	1	2	0	3
Toronto	2	0	0	2

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Tor., Kerfoot 2 (Rielly, Schenn), 2:20. 2. Tor., O'Reilly 3 (Marner, Matthews), 5:10 (pp). 3. Fla., Lundell 1 (Reinhart), 11:13. **Penalties**—Dalpe, FLA (Tripping), 4:45. Tkachuk, FLA (Charging), 6:23.

SECOND PERIOD: 4. Fla., Barkov 2 (Duclair), 0:19. 5. Fla., Forsling 2 (Tkachuk, Lundell), 1:06. **Penalties**—Bennett, FLA (Cross Checking), 15:28. Matthews, TOR (Tripping), 20:00.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties**—None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Fla. 9-9-11—29. Tor. 15-10-11—36. Power-play conversions—Fla. 0 of 1. Tor. 1 of 3.

GOALIES: Fla., Bobrovsky 5-1-0 (36 shots-34 saves). Tor., Samsonov 4-4-0 (29-26). Att—19,387 (18,819). T—2:32.

Stars 4, Kraken 2

Seattle	0	1	1	2
Dallas	0	3	1	4

FIRST PERIOD—None. **Penalties**—Benn, DAL (Holding), 0:51; Oleksiak, SEA (Holding), 0:51; Soucy, SEA (Delay of Game), 15:44.

SECOND PERIOD—1. Dallas, Johnston 2 (Domi, Miller), 3:43. 2. Dallas, Dadonov 4 (Benn, Suter), 9:05. 3. Seattle, Kartye 2 (Dunn), 11:05. 4. Dallas, Pavelski 5 (Seguin, Johnston), 16:57 (pp). **Penalties**—Seattle bench, served by Sprong (Interference), 1:36; Soucy, SEA (Slashing), 1:36; Marchment, DAL (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 1:36; Borgen, SEA (Holding), 15:52.

THIRD PERIOD—5. Dallas, Seguin 5 (Harley, Hintz), 10:59. 6. Seattle, Eberle 3 (Gourde), 16:32. **Penalty**—Harley, DAL (Tripping), 13:08.

SHOTS ON GOAL—Seattle 5-9-13—27. Dallas 11-19-7—37. Power-play conversions—Seattle 0 of 1; Dallas 1 of 3. GOALIES—Seattle, Grubauer 5-4-0 (37 shots-33 saves). Dallas, Oettinger 5-3-0 (27-25). A—18,532 (18,532). T—2:32.

GOLF

Fleetwood takes lead, McIlroy lurks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A little time away from golf paid off for birthday boy Rory McIlroy.

The world's third-ranked player shot a three-under-par 68 in the Wells Fargo Championship in Charlotte, N.C., on Thursday in his first tournament since missing the cut at the Masters, leaving him three shots behind first-round leader Tommy Fleetwood.

Fleetwood's six-under 65 at Quail Hollow was one stroke better than Xander Schauffele, Kevin Streelman, Taylor Moore, K.H. Lee and Ryan Palmer, who are tied for second after 66s.

Patrick Cantlay, with Tiger Woods' former caddie Joe LaCava, shot 67.

McIlroy withdrew from the HBC Heritage after a second-round 77 at Augusta National.

"I feel relaxed here," McIlroy, who turned 34, said of the site of his first PGA Tour win in 2010. "I think if you come back to the site of your first win on tour ... it's just a level of comfort at this golf course and at this club that I probably don't have at any other venue on tour."

U.S. gets a split

World No. 1 Nelly Korda and Lilia Vu rallied on the back nine to help the United States earn a split of its first two matches against China at the International Crown team event in San Francisco.

Korda and Vu trailed Ruoning Yin and Xiyu Lin by one at the turn before winning three straight holes on the back nine thanks to birdies by Vu on the 13th and 15th holes. Korda and Vu won the match 2 and 1.

Lexi Thompson and Danielle Kang lost the other match for the U.S. 1 up to Ruixin Liu and Yu Liu.

Pavon starts fast

Matthieu Pavon shot the lowest round of his European tour career at the Italian Open on the same course that will host this year's Ryder Cup.

The 30-year-old Frenchman shot an eight-under 63 to boost his chances of capturing European captain Luke Donald's attention. His impressive opening round gave him a two-shot lead over Maximilian Kieffer.

GOLF SCORES

$20-MILLION WELLS FARGO CHAMPIONSHIP
At Charlotte, N.C.—Par 71
Quail Hollow Club—7,448 yards
18-hole leaders

Tommy Fleetwood	32-33—65	-6
Kyoung-Hoon Lee	33-33—66	-5
Taylor Moore	32-34—66	-5
Ryan Palmer	33-33—66	-5
Xander Schauffele	32-34—66	-5
Kevin Streelman	32-34—66	-5
Patrick Cantlay	32-35—67	-4
Wyndham Clark	33-34—67	-4
Emiliano Grillo	33-34—67	-4
Kramer Hickok	34-33—67	-4
Tom Kim	32-35—67	-4
Chris Kirk	34-33—67	-4
Matthew NeSmith	34-33—67	-4
Adam Scott	32-35—67	-4
Sahith Theegala	31-36—67	-4
Beau Hossler	34-34—68	-3
Si Woo Kim	34-34—68	-3
Michael Kim	35-33—68	-3
Nate Lashley	35-33—68	-3
Rory McIlroy	34-34—68	-3
C.T. Pan	35-33—68	-3
J.J. Spaun	34-34—68	-3
Adam Svensson	36-32—68	-3
Justin Thomas	34-34—68	-3
Matt Fitzpatrick	32-37—69	-2
Lucas Glover	35-34—69	-2
Chesson Hadley	34-35—69	-2
Tyrrell Hatton	33-36—69	-2
Sungjae Im	32-37—69	-2
Troy Merritt	36-33—69	-2
Keith Mitchell	34-35—69	-2
Seamus Power	33-36—69	-2
Chad Ramey	32-37—69	-2
Davis Thompson	33-36—69	-2
Gary Woodland	32-37—69	-2
Ryan Armour	33-37—70	-1
Keegan Bradley	35-35—70	-1
Cameron Champ	35-35—70	-1
Corey Conners	34-36—70	-1
Trace Crowe	34-36—70	-1
MJ Daffue	33-37—70	-1
Austin Eckroat	34-36—70	-1
Paul Haley	34-36—70	-1
Harry Hall	33-37—70	-1
Brian Harman	36-34—70	-1
Max Homa	33-37—70	-1
Stephan Jaeger	36-34—70	-1
Seonghyeon Kim	35-35—70	-1
Max McGreevy	35-35—70	-1
Trey Mullinax	35-35—70	-1
Henrik Norlander	34-36—70	-1
Taylor Pendrith	36-34—70	-1
Rory Sabbatini	34-36—70	-1
Sam Stevens	34-36—70	-1
Callum Tarren	34-36—70	-1
Matt Wallace	35-35—70	-1
Nick Watney	33-37—70	-1
Sam Burns	36-35—71	E
Stewart Cink	35-36—71	E
Eric Cole	36-35—71	E
Ryan Cole	36-35—71	E
Cameron Davis	33-38—71	E
Jason Dufner	36-35—71	E
Harris English	36-35—71	E
Tony Finau	35-36—71	E
Rickie Fowler	36-35—71	E
Doug Ghim	34-37—71	E
Will Gordon	37-34—71	E
Nick Hardy	35-36—71	E
Viktor Hovland	37-34—71	E
Martin Laird	33-38—71	E
David Lingmerth	35-36—71	E
Justin Lower	37-34—71	E
Denny McCarthy	34-37—71	E

Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

ANTHONY DAVIS lies next to Warriors guard Donte DiVincenzo, who came up with a loose ball. A force in Game 1, Davis finished with just 11 points against smaller Golden State lineups. "We'll be better," Davis said.

Lakers suffer blowout loss

[**Lakers,** from B10]
to get Davis the ball as he rolled to the basket.

Klay Thompson made eight three-point shots, all five starters scored at least 10 as Golden State cruised to the 27-point win with Stephen Curry handing out 12 assists.

Game 3 is Saturday in Los Angeles.

"You got to keep scoring, get to the free-throw line as well, or just get points in the paint," James said. "They're going to go on runs. That's what they do. But you got to keep scoring, try to hold the fort down. You give credit where credit is due. They played exceptionally well tonight and we didn't. The series is tied 1-1. That's where we're at."

They didn't, even if the start made it seem like they might.

The Lakers actually led by seven after the first quarter thanks to James and Rui Hachimura, the pair combining to score 22 points in the first quarter. But the pair were the only consistent offense the Lakers could put together all game, James finishing with 23 and Hachimura adding 21. Davis scored only 11 points with Green guarding him.

Game 2 should be a reminder of what the Lakers are actually up against in this round of the playoffs.

New Orleans. Memphis. Houston. Portland. Oklahoma City. Utah. San Antonio. The Clippers. Denver. Dallas. Sacramento.

They've all tried to do it, to beat Steve Kerr's Golden State Warriors in the playoffs, and they've all failed. The Lakers, should they beat the Warriors, would be the first Western Conference team to beat Kerr in the playoffs, a reminder that when his teams have made the playoffs, they've always gone to the Finals.

Before Game 2, Kerr projected calm though the logical move was obvious — to play smaller.

"We've got a few things that we'll try and we feel good about our ability to adjust, but also about our ability to respond to losing a game and being down in the series," Kerr said pregame. "We just went through that being down 2-0 to Sacramento. We lost Game 1 of the Boston series last year in the Finals at home. So this is nothing new for our team."

In Game 2, the Warriors got leaner and faster, clogging the paint making it almost impossible to get Davis the ball in his best spots while stretching the Lakers defense to the corners of the court.

Kevon Looney, who had 23 rebounds in Game 1, moved to the bench in Game 2, with the team saying he was sick and would have his minutes limited. That allowed veteran JaMychal Green to move into the starting lineup, where he hit three of six from three as he scored 15 points.

Draymond Green accelerated the Warriors offense, racing the ball into the frontcourt, and even with the Lakers mostly accounting for Curry, his passing and dribbling cut the Lakers defense into pieces.

"We got fragmented a little bit," Ham said of his offense.

The Warriors again gave the Lakers trouble with one more shooter on the court — the first major adjustment of the series.

"It was hard for us to guard four shooters," Hachimura said. "Defensively they were more aggressive I feel like. They had all the loose balls and the rebounds and everything.

"Yeah, that was the game."

The Lakers, after dominating at the basket in Game 1, got pushed to the perimeter.

"Just our stagnation. ... I felt like I still have to go back and watch the game. But my gut feeling, my instincts tell me that my eyes saw us settle a little bit, mishandle the ball some early," Ham said. "We were right there early on neck and neck. A couple possessions got away from us early."

And the Warriors, they ran away with it, making half of their 21 threes while locking down the Lakers' offense.

"We'll be better," Davis said. "I'll be better making those shots. We'll get back home on our home floor and try to take care of business."

KEVON LOONEY, left, played a reserve role, but it only opened up more scoring for the Warriors.

NBA PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

1 Denver vs. 4 Phoenix
Nuggets lead series 2-0

Gm 1	Denver 125, Phoenix 107
Gm 2	Denver 97, Phoenix 87
Gm 3	Tonight at Phoenix, 7
Gm 4	Sunday at Phoenix, 5 p.m.
Gm 5	Tuesday at Denver, TBD*
Gm 6	May 11 at Phoenix, TBD*
Gm 7	May 14 at Denver, TBD*

6 Golden State vs. 7 LAKERS
Series tied 1-1

Gm 1	LAKERS 117, Golden St. 112
Gm 2	G. State 127, LAKERS 100
Gm 3	Sat. at LAKERS, 5:30 p.m.
Gm 4	Monday at LAKERS, 7 p.m.
Gm 5	Wed. at Golden State, TBD
Gm 6	May 12 at LAKERS, TBD*
Gm 7	May 14 at Golden St., TBD*

EASTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

2 Boston vs. 3 Philadelphia
Series tied 1-1

Gm 1	Phila. 119, Boston 115
Gm 2	Boston 121, Philadelphia 87
Gm 3	Tonight at Phila., 4:30
Gm 4	Sunday at Phila., 12:30 p.m.
Gm 5	Tuesday at Boston, TBD
Gm 6	May 11 at Phila., TBD*
Gm 7	May 14 at Boston, TBD*

5 New York vs. 8 Miami
Series tied 1-1

Gm 1	Miami 108, New York 101
Gm 2	New York 111, Miami 105
Gm 3	Sat. at Miami, 12:30 p.m.
Gm 4	Mon. at Miami, 4:30 p.m.
Gm 5	Wed. at New York, TBD
Gm 6	May 12 at Miami, TBD*
Gm 7	May 15 at New York, TBD*

All times PDT, unless noted

* if necessary

WARRIORS 127, LAKERS 100

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
James	28	10-18	0-0	0-7	3	3	23
Vanderbilt	19	2-7	1-2	4-6	1	0	6
Davis	32	5-11	1-1	1-7	4	3	11
Reaves	24	3-11	0-0	0-4	2	1	7
Russell	27	5-12	0-0	1-1	8	1	10
Hachimura	22	8-14	1-2	1-5	0	1	21
Schroder	18	0-3	4-4	1-3	2	3	4
Beasley	12	1-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	2
T.Thompson	12	2-4	1-4	1-4	2	1	5
Walker IV	12	4-8	0-0	0-0	1	0	9
Christie	9	0-1	2-4	0-1	0	0	2
Harrison	8	0-0	0-0	0-1	1	1	0
Brown Jr.	8	0-1	0-0	0-0	3	0	0
Gabriel	2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**40-94**	**10-17**	**9-40**	**27**	**15**	**100**

Shooting: Field goals, 42.6%; free throws, 58.8%
Three-point goals: 10-34 (Hachimura 4-6, James 3-8, Vanderbilt 1-2, Walker IV 1-4, Reaves 1-5, Brown Jr. 0-1, Christie 0-1, Schroder 0-1, Beasley 0-3, Russell 0-3). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Davis 3). Turnovers: 9 (Davis 4, Reaves 2, Hachimura, Schroder, Vanderbilt). Steals: 9 (Schroder 2, Beasley, Davis, Hachimura, Harrison, James, Russell, Walker IV). Technical Fouls: coach Phil Handy, 2:50 second

GOLDEN STATE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
J.Green	12	6-9	0-0	0-1	2	3	15
Wiggins	29	3-8	3-4	2-4	4	2	11
D.Green	28	5-10	1-4	2-11	9	3	11
Curry	29	7-12	3-3	0-4	12	3	20
K.Thompson	31	11-18	0-0	0-3	1	2	30
DiVincenzo	28	3-9	0-0	0-4	4	0	8
Moody	25	3-9	2-3	1-7	2	2	10
Poole	15	3-6	0-0	1-4	3	5	6
Looney	11	3-6	0-0	3-8	0	0	6
Kuminga	9	1-4	0-0	1-2	1	1	3
Lamb	8	0-1	0-0	0-2	0	1	0
Payton II	8	3-3	1-2	3-5	0	1	7
Totals		**48-95**	**10-16**	**13-55**	**38**	**23**	**127**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.5%; free throws, 62.5%
Three-point goals: 21-42 (K.Thompson 8-11, Curry 3-5, J.Green 3-6, Moody 2-3, Wiggins 2-4, DiVincenzo 2-8, Kuminga 1-1, D.Green 0-1, Lamb 0-1, Poole 0-2). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (DiVincenzo, Moody, Wiggins). Turnovers: 15 (DiVincenzo 4, Curry 3, D.Green 2, Wiggins 2, J.Green, K.Thompson, Payton II, Poole). Steals: 2 (Curry, D.Green). Technical Fouls: None.

LAKERS	33	23	24	20—100
Golden State	26	41	43	17—127

A—18,064. T—2:23.

Lakers know they have fight on their hands

[**Plaschke,** from B10]
ing Anthony Davis, tormenting LeBron James, blowing past the Lakers as if they were standing still, winning 127-100 at a gleeful Chase Center to even the best-of-seven series.

"I fully anticipate our team to respond," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said afterward.

The Lakers had better. And quick.

The Lakers franchise has won each of its last nine series when tied 1-all, the longest such streak in NBA history, but this doesn't feel tied.

The next two duels in this best-of-seven clash will be at Crypto.com Arena beginning Saturday, but it no longer feels as if the Lakers can make quick work of their weary Northern California rivals.

It no longer feels like anything other than ... a Klay Thompson rainbow three ... a falling-down Stephen Curry three ... a grinding Draymond Green rebound ... and a wincing, crumbling Davis.

It all starts with the end of that sentence. One game after he was unstoppable, AD was KOd, swarmed into submission, held to five baskets with four turnovers, 11 points after taking 11 shots, illustrating the Warriors' best chance to win this series.

Toss around AD and push your way into the next round.

"The Lakers are huge, they are a massive team," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said afterward. "We felt like going into the game, we had to bring some size and physicality."

It didn't happen in the opener. It might not happen again. But it happened Thursday, and the Lakers were demoralized into basically standing around.

Except for James' 23 points and Rui Hachimura's 21 points with four three-pointers, no other Lakers player really did anything.

"Our stagnation ... my eyes saw us settle a little bit," Ham said. "They did a good job of crowding the paint. Not allowing us to play downhill."

Davis said he didn't feel crowded. He said he didn't feel as if he were settling. He said it wasn't them, it was him.

"I took all the same shots I took in Game 1, I just missed them," Davis said. "Same exact looks, didn't shoot no shot that I didn't shoot in Game 1. Just missed them. That's all."

Meanwhile, led by Thompson's 30 points, the Warriors had six players in double figures while collecting 15 more rebounds, six more points in the paint and five more second-chance points.

While the Lakers were nowhere, the champions were everything, everywhere, all at once.

"I thought we just played simple basketball," Kerr said, adding, "Our guys were playing with a lot of force, a lot of aggressiveness but making good decisions within that aggression."

And pride. Don't forget pride. The Warriors were clearly too proud to be beaten down by AD for a second consecutive game.

"They're a championship ballclub for a reason," Ham said. "After Game 1, we fully anticipated them to come out and throw some haymakers, which they did."

With an interior defense fueled by Draymond Green and JaMychal Green, the Warriors made the proper adjustments. Now it's the Lakers' turn.

"We'll go back to the drawing board," Ham said.

He better have a ton of chalk.

The one day of rest between games doesn't favor James. The speed of Curry and Thompson doesn't favor the Lakers' defense. And if JaMychal Green can score 15 points with a trio of threes ... yeah, pull out that drawing board.

"We've got our work cut out for us," Ham said. "But you don't get to this point in the season by it being easy. You have to buckle down."

The Warriors began their push on the biggest Laker immediately, holding Davis to one basket in the first quarter and fewer baskets (two) than turnovers (three) at halftime. The Lakers still led by seven at the end of the quarter, but without Davis imposing his will, the Lakers eventually lost theirs.

In the second quarter, the Warriors began attacking the basket and Davis with joyous abandon, Thompson throwing in threes from the rafters, the Lakers staggered and reeling and outscored 41-23 for the entire ugly period.

And that was that.

The Warriors kept blitzing after halftime, outscoring the Lakers by 19 in a third quarter that ended with James sulking, Davis collapsing and somebody named Moses Moody throwing down a dunk. The Lakers trailed by 30 after three and the final dozen minutes wouldn't be necessary.

The game unofficially ended when Ham pulled the starters before the fourth quarter, but the Warriors just had to rub it in.

With 9:43 left in the game, Curry sprinkled the salt, knocking down a three while being knocked down by Malik Beasley, Warriors leading by 31, Curry laughing, everybody laughing, everything so funny ... not.

"You give credit where credit is due," James said. "They played exceptionally well tonight and we didn't."

Before the game, Kerr all but predicted this rout, saying, "We feel good about our ability to adjust, but also about our ability to respond to losing a game and being down in the series. ... This is nothing new for our team. We know what we're capable of."

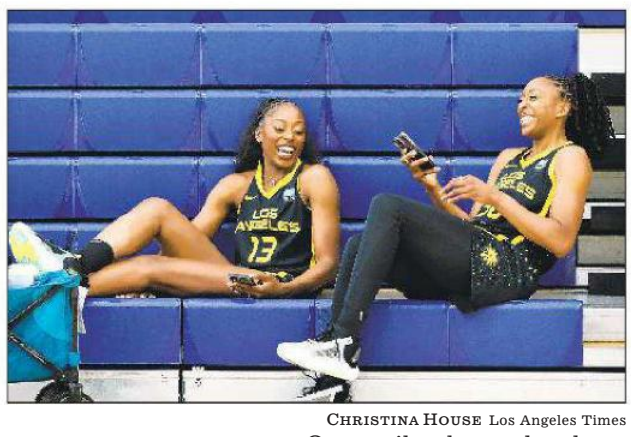
Now, so do the Lakers.

They have won 25 consecutive series in which they won the first game. But these are the Warriors. And the fight has just begun.

Sparks' training camp reflects an about-face from 2022

Players say they notice a new level of professionalism under first-year regime.

BY THUC NHI NGUYEN



CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

CHINEY AND NNEKA Ogwumike share a laugh during the Sparks' media day at El Camino College.

It's 2023 and Chiney Ogwumike gave the highest possible compliment about the Sparks' first four days of training camp.

"The vibes are right," the forward said with a broad smile.

Sparks players weren't just smiling Thursday for their photo sessions during the team's media day. They were marveling at the franchise's new level of professionalism and camaraderie that has taken hold with the first-year tandem of general manager Karen Bryant and head coach Curt Miller.

After cobbling together a practice schedule by hunting open court time in rental gyms, college campuses and the Lakers' facility, the Sparks will call El Camino College their regular practice home this year. If there are problems with housing, medical staff questions or other issues, the team helps immediately, forward Azurá Stevens said. Most players arrived in L.A. well before the season, helping the team develop chemistry on and off the court.

"It's a complete 180 from last year," said guard Jordin Canada, who is in her second year with the Sparks. "You can just sense that it's a different environment, different atmosphere in the locker room. ... Everyone on this team wants to see everyone be successful and do well, encouraging each other, pushing each other, holding each other accountable. That's what we lacked last year: accountability."

Canada was so convinced by the vision of Bryant and Miller that the five-year pro opted to return to her hometown team on a nonguaranteed training camp contract one year after signing as a coveted free agent from Seattle. She is competing in what Layshia Clarendon called, "the best point guard camp I've been at."

Clarendon, a 32-year-old former college star at California now playing for a sixth WNBA franchise, offers a veteran voice to a backcourt that struggled without All-Star Chelsea Gray. Canada injects the group with speed and tests her teammates in transition drills. Jasmine Thomas, the floor general of Miller's teams in Connecticut, is participating in practices after sitting out last year rehabbing a torn ACL but didn't give a timetable for her return to competition as the team prepares for its season opener at home on May 19 against the Phoenix Mercury.

Rookies Zia Cooke and Yang Liwei are also pushing for roster spots. Cooke, the Sparks' top draft pick last month, is working at both guard positions. Yang, 28, helped China claim the silver medal at the FIBA Women's World Cup last year and played two seasons in China with Sparks star Nneka Ogwumike.

Yang didn't cower while making the transition to what she called the "top league in the world."

"To me, there's nothing different to playing in the States because [I'm] just playing basketball on the other side of the planet," Yang said through an interpreter. "Being a professional is [my] job everywhere."

In her first WNBA experience, Yang was impressed by Miller's commitment to building a strong culture with the Sparks.

"Selfless is the No. 1 thing," she said. "Every player should think as a champion."

Miller and Bryant sidestepped any explicit championship talk Thursday, opting instead to repeat their mantra of building sustainable success a day at a time. Fans in the city, though, might be getting impatient. The Sparks' 25 wins during the last two seasons are the fewest for a two-year stretch in franchise history.

Despite the recent struggles, Stevens, a prized free-agent forward who played in Chicago last season, eagerly signed with the Sparks for the rebuild. She hopes fans will do the same.

"The fans need to be loyal if we're winning or losing," Stevens said. "Because when we win the chip and you're not loyal, I don't want to hear anything from you."

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	19	13	.594	–	8-2
Arizona	17	14	.548	1½	5-5
San Diego	17	15	.531	2	7-3
San Francisco	13	17	.433	5	6-4
Colorado	12	20	.375	7	6-4
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Pittsburgh	20	12	.625	–	5-5
Milwaukee	18	13	.581	1½	3-7
Chicago	15	16	.484	4½	3-7
Cincinnati	13	18	.419	6½	6-4
St. Louis	10	22	.313	10	1-9
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	22	10	.688	–	8-2
Miami	16	16	.500	6	4-6
New York	16	16	.500	6	2-8
Philadelphia	15	17	.469	7	5-5
Washington	13	18	.419	8½	6-4

Thursday's results
ANGELS 11, at St. Louis 7
at Washington 4, Chicago 3
at Detroit 2, New York 0
at Tampa Bay 3, Pittsburgh 2
at Colorado 9, Milwaukee 6
Atlanta 6, at Miami 3

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	18	12	.600	–	5-5
ANGELS	18	14	.563	1	7-3
Houston	16	15	.516	2½	5-5
Seattle	15	16	.484	3½	5-5
Oakland	6	26	.188	13	2-8
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	18	14	.563	–	6-4
Cleveland	14	17	.452	3½	4-6
Detroit	13	17	.433	4	6-4
Chicago	10	22	.313	8	3-7
Kansas City	8	24	.250	10	3-7
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	26	6	.813	–	7-3
Baltimore	21	10	.677	4½	7-3
Boston	19	14	.576	7½	7-3
Toronto	18	14	.563	8	5-5
New York	17	15	.531	9	4-6

Thursday's results
ANGELS 11, at St. Louis 7
at Detroit 2, New York Mets 0
at Tampa Bay 3, Pittsburgh 2
Baltimore 13, at Kansas City 10
Minnesota 7, at Chicago 3, 12 innings
Seattle 5, at Oakland 3
at Boston 11, Toronto 5

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
Dodgers/Kershaw (L)	5-1	1.90	6:30 p.m.
SD/ Darvish (R)	1-2	3.60	SNLA
MIA/Cabrera (R)	2-2	4.67	11:15 a.m.
CHI/Steele (L)	4-0	1.49	MLB
COL/Senzatela (R)	—	—	4 p.m.
NY/Senga (R)	3-1	4.15	
WAS/Gray (R)	2-4	2.67	6:30 p.m.
ARI/Kelly (R)	2-3	3.06	MLB
MIL/Burnes (R)	3-1	4.01	7:15 p.m.
SF/Manaea (L)	0-1	7.86	

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
TEX/TBD	—	—	6:30 p.m.
Angels/Anderson (L)	1-0	5.74	BSW
NY/Brito (R)	2-3	5.56	3:30 p.m.
TB/Chirinos (R)	1-0	0.64	
MIN/Ober (R)	1-0	1.59	4 p.m.
CLE/Battenfield (R)	0-2	4.67	
OAK/Muller (L)	0-2	6.28	5 p.m.
KC/Keller (R)	2-2	3.56	
HOU/Javier (R)	2-1	3.48	7 p.m.
SEA/Castillo (R)	2-0	1.82	

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
TOR/Bassitt (R)	3-2	5.18	3:30 p.m.
PIT/Hill (L)	3-2	4.18	
CHI/Lynn (R)	0-4	7.16	3:30 p.m.
CIN/Greene (R)	0-1	2.89	
BOS/Sale (L)	2-2	6.75	4 p.m.
PHI/Wheeler (R)	3-1	3.86	
BAL/Kremer (R)	2-1	6.67	4:15 p.m.
ATL/Fried (L)	2-0	0.45	
DET/Boyd (L)	1-2	5.47	5:15 p.m.
STL/Montgomery (L)	2-4	3.34	

* joined in progress

ODDS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Chicago Cubs	-168	Miami	+142
at N.Y Mets	-250	Colorado	+205
at Arizona	-180	Washington	+152
DODGERS	-118	at San Diego	+100
Milwaukee	-146	at San Francisco	+124

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at ANGELS	OFF	Texas	OFF
at Tampa Bay	-199	N.Y Yankees	+166
Minnesota	-126	at Cleveland	+108
at Kansas City	-162	Oakland	+136
at Seattle	-146	Houston	+124

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Toronto	-154	at Pittsburgh	+130
Chicago White Sox	-116	at Cincinnati	-102
at Philadelphia	-164	Boston	+138
at Atlanta	-225	Baltimore	+188
at St. Louis	-245	Detroit	+200

LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	28	99	42	12	.424
Acuña, Atlanta	32	124	44	29	.355
T.Estrada, San Francisco	29	114	39	20	.342
E.Díaz, Colorado	29	92	31	12	.337
Marsh, Philadelphia	30	95	31	18	.326
B.Reynolds, Pittsburgh	30	114	37	18	.325
Carroll, Arizona	29	99	31	20	.313

Home Runs

Muncy, DODGERS	12
Wisdom, Chicago	11
Alonso, New York	11
Tellez, Milwaukee	9
Olson, Atlanta	9
Albies, Atlanta	9

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
M.Chapman, Toronto	31	114	40	18	.351
Bichette, Toronto	32	136	45	21	.331
Y.Díaz, Tampa Bay	29	104	34	25	.327
Arozarena, Tampa Bay	30	117	38	23	.325
Guerrero, Toronto	32	128	41	23	.320
Yoshida, Boston	27	104	33	21	.317
Verdugo, Boston	32	130	41	26	.315

Home Runs

Devers, Boston	11
Rooker, Oakland	9

Rengifo powers Angels to a sweep

ANGELS 11
ST. LOUIS 7

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — Luis Rengifo homered, drove in four runs and finished a triple shy of the cycle, as the Angels beat the St. Louis Cardinals 11-7 on Thursday to complete a three-game sweep.

The Angels won for the fourth straight time to improve to four games above .500 for the first time since June 1. The Cardinals lost their sixth in a row and have dropped nine of their last 10.

"They're a good team over there," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "I know their record isn't indicative of the talent they have, but I know they're coming and I never really felt comfortable until the last out, I never do. But resilient, we played great."

Griffin Canning (2-0) gave up five runs in five innings to earn his second straight decision for the Angels. Canning gave up six hits, struck out three and walked three.

"Obviously, I'd like the line to look prettier, but yeah, I feel pretty good with where I'm at physically and mentally," Canning said.

JOE PUETZ Associated Press

LUIS RENGIFO crosses home plate after hitting a home run. The Angels are four games over .500 for the first time since June.

Rengifo's three-run homer capped a four-run second inning and gave the Angels a 4-2 lead. He drove in another with a sacrifice fly in the fourth and scored twice.

Rengifo also came up with a big defensive play to thwart a potential Cardinals rally in the eighth.

"I feel really good," Rengifo said. "Be focused and you know do my job every single day and I'm so happy for the results today."

The Angels blew the game open by sending 11 batters to the plate in a six-run third that featured seven hits — all of which were singles. Zach Neto, who left Wednesday's game in the fifth inning because of a bruised right finger, capped the inning with a two-run single to make it 10-2.

"Just quality at-bats," Nevin said. "It was one thing I was proud of is, you know, the lead increased, we kept taking quality at-bats and kept the line moving."

Matt Thaiss had RBI singles in the second and third and scored two runs for the Angels.

Anthony Rendon reached safely four times and also scored twice.

Cardinals starter Jack Flaherty (2-4) gave up a career-high 10 runs in just 2⅓ innings.

ANGELS 11
CARDINALS 7

Streak	Won 4	**This month**	3-0
Home	8-5	**Road**	10-9
Division	7-3	**Interleague**	6-3

Next: Tonight vs. Texas, Angel Stadium, 6:30
TV/Radio: Bally Sports West/830, 1330

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Neto ss	5	0	1	2	.262
Ohtani dh	3	1	1	0	.308
Renfre rf	5	1	1	0	.254
Rndon 3b	3	2	2	0	.266
Lamb 1b	4	2	1	1	.234
Urshla 1b	1	0	0	0	.276
Ward lf	4	1	3	1	.237
Thaiss c	5	2	3	2	.265
Rngifo 2b	4	2	3	4	.231
Phlips cf	5	0	1	1	.083
Totals	**39**	**11**	**16**	**11**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nootbaar rf	5	1	4	0	.262
Gldsmdt 1b	5	0	2	2	.300
Gorman 3b	3	1	0	0	.268
a-Motter 3b	2	0	0	0	.200
Arenado dh	4	1	0	0	.236
Contreras c	4	1	2	2	.284
O'Neill lf	4	0	0	0	.228
Dnovn 2b	4	0	0	0	.253
Carlson cf	2	1	0	0	.235
Edman ss	4	2	2	3	.265
Totals	**37**	**7**	**10**	**7**	

Angees	046	100	000	–11
St. Louis	200	302	000	– 7

	H	R
Angees	16	0
St. Louis	10	1

a-popped out for Gorman in the 6th.

Walks—Angels 3: Ohtani 2, Rendon 1. St. Louis 4: Arenado 1, Contreras 1, Carlson 2. **Strikeouts**—Angels 8: Neto 2, Ohtani 1, Renfroe 1, Lamb 2, Rengifo 1, Phillips 1. St. Louis 5: Goldschmidt 1, Arenado 1, O'Neill 2, Donovan 1. **E**—Edman (4). **LOB**—Angels 7, St. Louis 7. **2B**—Rengifo (2), Ward (3), Contreras 2 (9), Goldschmidt (12). **HR**—Rengifo (2), off Flaherty; Edman (5), off Canning. **RBIs**—Thaiss 2 (6), Rengifo 4 (13), Lamb (5), Ward (14), Phillips (2), Neto 2 (7), Contreras 2 (14), Edman 3 (13), Goldschmidt 2 (16). **SF**—Ward, Rengifo. **DP**—St. Louis 3 (Gorman, Donovan, Goldschmidt; Gorman, Donovan, Goldschmidt; Edman, Donovan, Goldschmidt).

Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Canning, W, 2-0	5	6	5	5	3	3	88	5.31
Loup	⅔	2	2	2	1	0	25	7.00
Devenski	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	17	0.00
Davidson	1	2	0	0	0	1	18	2.25
Moore	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.10
St. Louis	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Flaherty, L, 2-4	2⅓	9	10	10	1	3	74	6.29
Woodford	1⅔	4	1	0	1	0	31	5.40
Stratton	2	1	0	0	0	3	28	3.44
Romero	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	24	1.23
VerHagen	1⅓	1	0	0	1	1	23	4.20

Inherited runners-scored—Devenski 1-0, Woodford 3-3. **HBP**—Flaherty (Rendon).
U—Hunter Wendelstedt, John Tumpane, Alex MacKay, Marvin Hudson. **T**—2:58. **Tickets sold**—40,508 (44,494).

ROCKIES 9
BREWERS 6

Charlie Blackmon had two hits and two RBIs, and Colorado used a five-run eighth inning to earn a come-from-behind victory and extend its season-best win streak to four games.

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Yelich lf	5	2	3	2	.243
Winker dh	5	0	2	1	.258
Adames ss	5	0	0	0	.212
Tellez 1b	4	1	1	1	.258
Andrsn 3b	4	1	3	0	.264
Caratini c	4	0	2	1	.333
Turang 2b	3	1	1	0	.241
Taylor rf	4	1	1	1	.100
Wiemer cf	3	0	0	0	.207
c-Voit	1	0	0	0	.204
Totals	**38**	**6**	**13**	**6**	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Blckmn dh	5	0	2	2	.280
Profar lf	4	0	0	0	.211
Bryant rf	3	0	2	0	.309
Cron 1b	4	0	1	0	.250
1-McMn 3b	0	1	0	0	.215
Mstaks 3b	4	2	2	0	.245
Trejo 2b	3	1	1	0	.238
b-Cstro 2b	1	1	1	2	.234
Tovar ss	3	2	1	2	.222
Doyle cf	3	2	1	0	.174
Serven c	2	0	0	0	.130
a-Díaz c	0	0	0	2	.337
Totals	**32**	**9**	**11**	**8**	

Milwaukee	200	011	002	–6
Colorado	000	000	45x	–9

	H	R
Milwaukee	13	0
Colorado	11	0

a-sacrificed for Serven in the 7th. b-singled for Trejo in the 8th. c-struck out for Wiemer in the 9th. 1-ran for Cron in the 8th.

Walks—Milwaukee 1: Turang 1. Colorado 3: Profar 1, Bryant 1, Doyle 1. **Strikeouts**—Milwaukee 7: Winker 1, Adames 1, Tellez 2, Wiemer 2, Voit 1. Colorado 4: Blackmon 1, Bryant 1, Moustakas 1, Serven 1. **LOB**—Milwaukee 6, Colorado 5. **2B**—Bryant (5), Tovar (7), Moustakas (5). **3B**—Anderson (1). **HR**—Yelich (4), off Seabold; Tellez (9), off Seabold; Taylor (1), off Seabold. **RBIs**—Yelich 2 (13), Tellez (22), Taylor (2), Caratini (5), Winker (12), Tovar 2 (11), Díaz 2 (16), Castro 2 (9), Blackmon 2 (11). **SB**—Doyle (4). **SF**—Díaz 2. **DP**—Milwaukee 1 (Adames, Turang, Tellez); Colorado 1 (Tovar, Trejo, Cron).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miley	6	6	3	3	2	2	90	2.31
Payamps, BS, 1-2	1	1	1	1	0	1	21	3.14
Strzelecki, L, 2-2	⅓	3	5	5	1	1	27	4.20
T.Miller	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	12	0.00
Colorado	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Seabold	5	7	3	3	0	1	75	5.30
Mears	2	3	1	1	0	4	29	6.00
Hand, W, 1-1	1	1	0	0	0	1	20	3.86
Johnson	1	2	2	2	1	1	31	5.11

Inherited runners-scored—Payamps 1-1, T.Miller 3-3. **HBP**—Miley (Blackmon), Strzelecki (Tovar). **WP**—T.Miller.
U—D.J. Reyburn, John Libka, Edwin Jimenez, James Hoye. **T**—2:43. **Tickets sold**—30,647 (50,144).

NATIONALS 4
CUBS 3

Patrick Corbin pitched seven near-flawless innings. Alex Call hit a game-ending homer and Washington recovered after blowing a 3-0 lead to take three of four from skidding Chicago.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Hoerner 2b	4	0	1	1	.304
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	.284
Happ lf	3	0	0	0	.299
Suzuki dh	4	0	1	0	.274
Bellinger cf	4	1	2	0	.299
Wisdom 3b	4	1	1	0	.238
Mancini 1b	4	1	1	1	.267
Velázquez rf	3	0	0	0	.280
Amaya c	2	0	0	1	.000
Totals	**32**	**3**	**6**	**3**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Call cf-lf	4	1	1	1	.230
García 2b	3	0	0	0	.223
Cndelrio 3b	3	0	0	0	.226
Meneses dh	3	1	1	0	.276
Smith 1b	3	1	2	0	.259
Thomas rf	3	1	1	3	.269
Abrams ss	3	0	1	0	.248
Garrett lf	3	0	0	0	.286
Robles cf	0	0	0	0	.302
Adams c	3	0	0	0	.211
Totals	**28**	**4**	**6**	**4**	

Chicago	000	000	030	–3
Washington	030	000	001	–4

	H	R
Chicago	6	0
Washington	6	0

No outs when winning run scored.

Walks—Chicago 1: Happ 1.
Strikeouts—Chicago 9: Hoerner 1, Swanson 1, Happ 1, Suzuki 1, Bellinger 1, Wisdom 3, Velázquez 1. Washington 5: Candelario 1, Abrams 1, Garrett 1, Adams 2.
LOB—Chicago 4, Washington 0. **2B**—Mancini (3), Suzuki (3). **HR**—Thomas (2), off Taillon; Call (3), off Boxberger. **RBIs**—Mancini (16), Amaya (1), Hoerner (18), Thomas 3 (14), Call (14). **SB**—Bellinger (6). **SF**—Amaya.
Runners left in scoring position—Chicago 3 (Mancini 3); Washington 0. **RISP**—Chicago 2 for 8; Washington 1 for 1. **GIDP**—Garrett.
DP—Chicago 1 (Swanson, Hoerner, Mancini).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Taillon	3	3	3	3	0	4	42	5.29
Assad	5	2	0	0	0	1	50	5.84
Boxberger, L, 0-1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	4.09
Washington	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Corbin	7	3	2	2	0	6	80	5.17
Harvey, BS, 0-1	1	2	1	1	0	1	20	2.45
Finnegan, W, 1-1	1	1	0	0	1	2	20	5.54

Inherited runners-scored—Harvey 2-2.
U—Todd Tichenor, Brian Knight, Alex Tosi, Tony Randazzo. **T**—1:55. **Tickets sold**—18,577 (41,376).

TIGERS 2
METS 0

Justin Verlander gave up back-to-back homers in his New York debut and Eduardo Rodriguez threw eight scoreless innings as Detroit completed a three-game sweep vs. a former Tiger.

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nimmo cf	4	0	1	0	.302
Marte rf	4	0	1	0	.228
Lindor ss	3	0	0	0	.212
Alonso 1b	3	0	0	0	.244
Pham dh	3	0	1	0	.241
McNeil 2b	3	0	0	0	.286
Canha lf	3	0	0	0	.222
Escobar 3b	2	0	0	0	.167
Álvarez c	2	0	0	0	.200
a-Vogelbach	1	0	0	0	.267
Totals	**28**	**0**	**3**	**0**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
McKinstry lf	3	0	0	0	.262
Greene cf	4	1	2	1	.252
Báez ss	3	1	1	1	.240
Maton 3b	4	0	0	0	.156
Torkelson 1b	2	0	0	0	.206
Haase dh	3	0	1	0	.280
Vierling rf	3	0	0	0	.272
Ibáñez 2b	3	0	1	0	.235
Short 2b	0	0	0	0	.444
Rogers c	3	0	0	0	.189
Totals	**28**	**2**	**5**	**2**	

New York	000	000	000	–0
Detroit	200	000	00x	–2

	H	R
New York	3	0
Detroit	5	0

a-struck out for Álvarez in the 9th.

Walks—New York 1: Escobar 1. Detroit 1: McKinstry 1.
Strikeouts—New York 11: Nimmo 1, Marte 1, Lindor 2, Alonso 2, Pham 2, McNeil 1, Canha 1, Vogelbach 1. Detroit 8: McKinstry 1, Greene 1, Maton 3, Rogers 3.
LOB—New York 2, Detroit 5. **2B**—Ibáñez (1). **HR**—Greene (3), off Verlander; Báez (2), off Verlander. **RBIs**—Greene (9), Báez (13). **SB**—Greene (3). **CS**—Pham (1), Nimmo (1).
Runners left in scoring position—New York 0; Detroit 3 (Maton 2, Greene). **RISP**—New York 0 for 0; Detroit 0 for 5.
Runners moved up—Báez. **GIDP**—Vierling.
DP—New York 1 (Lindor, McNeil, Alonso).

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Verlander, L, 0-1	5	5	2	2	1	5	79	3.60
Brigham	1	0	0	0	0	1	19	4.50
Leone	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	0.00
Smith	1	0	0	0	0	1	21	2.25
Detroit	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Rodriguez, W, 3-2	8	2	0	0	1	9	102	1.81
Lange, S, 5-6	1	1	0	0	0	2	13	1.23

HBP—Brigham (Torkelson), Smith (Báez).
U—Adam Beck, Dan Iassogna, Gabe Morales, Scott Barry. **T**—2:06. **Tickets sold**—18,369 (41,083).

RAYS 3
PIRATES 2

Zach Eflin pitched seven scoreless innings, scattering three hits and striking out 10. Randy Arozarena hit one of three Tampa Bay home runs to help complete a three-game sweep.

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Marcano ss	3	1	0	0	.243
Reynolds lf	4	1	1	0	.325
McCthn dh	4	0	0	0	.238
Santana 1b	4	0	2	2	.278
1-Andujar	0	0	0	0	.333
Suwinski cf	3	0	0	0	.250
Joe rf	4	0	0	0	.283
Hayes 3b	3	0	1	0	.225
Bae 2b	3	0	0	0	.253
Delay c	2	0	0	0	.372
a-Castro	1	0	0	0	.271
Totals	**31**	**2**	**4**	**2**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Díaz 1b	4	1	2	1	.327
Franco ss	3	0	0	0	.298
Arozarena lf	3	1	1	1	.325
J.Lowe dh	2	0	0	0	.329
Paredes 3b	3	0	1	0	.263
Walls 2b	3	1	1	1	.290
Raley rf	3	0	0	0	.217
Bethncrt c	3	0	0	0	.224
Margot cf	2	0	0	0	.241
Totals	**26**	**3**	**5**	**3**	

Pittsburgh	000	000	002	–2
Tampa Bay	010	100	01x	–3

	H	R
Pittsburgh	4	0
Tampa Bay	5	1

a-struck out for Delay in the 9th. 1-ran for Santana in the 9th.

Walks—Pittsburgh 1: Suwinski 1. Tampa Bay 4: Franco 1, Arozarena 1, J.Lowe 1, Margot 1. **Strikeouts**—Pittsburgh 13: Marcano 2, Reynolds 1, McCutchen 3, Suwinski 2, Joe 3, Delay 1, Castro 1. Tampa Bay 8: Arozarena 1, J.Lowe 1, Walls 1, Raley 2, Bethancourt 2, Margot 1. **E**—Walls (2). **LOB**—Pittsburgh 4, Tampa Bay 3. **2B**—Santana 2 (11), Díaz (5), Paredes (6). **HR**—Walls (5), off Velasquez; Arozarena (8), off Hernandez; Díaz (8), off Stephenson. **RBIs**—Santana 2 (19), Walls (11), Arozarena (29), Díaz (17). **SB**—J.Lowe (5). **CS**—J.Lowe (1), Arozarena (3). **Runners left in scoring position**—Pittsburgh 2 (Suwinski, Joe); Tampa Bay 2 (Raley, J.Lowe). **RISP**—Pittsburgh 1 for 4; Tampa Bay 0 for 4. **Runners moved up**—Arozarena. **GIDP**—Delay, Arozarena. **DP**—Pittsburgh 1 (Marcano, Bae, Santana); Tampa Bay 1 (Franco, Walls, Díaz).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Velasquez, L, 4-3	3	2	1	1	1	2	54	3.06
Hernandez	1	2	1	1	0	1	21	1.98
Underwood Jr.	2	0	0	0	2	1	32	2.30
Holderman	1	0	0	0	0	3	9	3.21
Stephenson	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	1.29
Tampa Bay	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Eflin, W, 4-0	7	3	0	0	0	10	80	2.25
Thompson, H, 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.86
Adam, S, 2-3	1	1	2	0	1	3	25	1.46

HBP—Adam (Marcano).
U—Manny Gonzalez, Junior Valentine, Adrian Johnson, Quinn Wolcott. **T**—2:14. **Tickets sold**—12,418 (25,025).

ORIOLES 13
ROYALS 10

Baltimore blew a seven-run lead before Ramon Urias hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the eighth inning and a two-run double in the ninth as the Orioles won their seventh straight series.

Balt.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Mullins cf	5	0	1	3	.245
Rtshn dh	5	0	0	0	.299
Mntcsl 1b	4	1	1	0	.256
Sntnder rf	5	1	2	2	.241
2-MKna rf	0	1	0	0	.267
Stwers lf	4	1	0	0	.143
Frazr 2b	3	4	2	0	.241
Mateo ss	4	2	1	1	.321
Hdrsn 3b	2	2	1	2	.190
a-Urís 3b	2	0	2	4	.280
McCnn c	3	1	0	0	.225
Totals	**37**	**13**	**10**	**12**	

Kan. City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Witt Jr. ss	5	1	3	1	.237
Pqntn1b	5	0	1	1	.288
Dozier lf	1	0	0	0	.159
Perez dh	4	1	1	2	.268
Mlndz rf	5	1	3	0	.200
Pratto lf	5	1	0	0	.333
Garcia 3b	5	1	2	1	.417
Massy 2b	3	2	1	1	.184
Isbel cf	4	1	2	2	.209
1-Brdly cf	0	0	0	0	.156
Fermin c	4	2	3	2	.364
Totals	**41**	**10**	**16**	**10**	

Baltimore	233	000	023	–13
Kansas City	013	210	201	–10

	H	R
Baltimore	10	0
Kansas City	16	1

a-singled for Henderson in the 8th. 1-ran for Isbel in the 7th. 2-ran for Santander in the 9th.

Strikeouts—Baltimore 6: Mullins 2, Rutschman 1, Santander 2, Mateo 1. Kansas City 11: Witt Jr. 1, Pasquantino 1, Dozier 1, Perez 1, Melendez 2, Pratto 2, Garcia 1, Massey 1, Fermin 1. **E**—Melendez (2). **LOB**—Baltimore 7, Kansas City 10. **2B**—Mullins (5), Mountcastle (9), Urías (7), Melendez 2 (7), Massey (2), Witt Jr. (5), Garcia (1). **3B**—Fermin (1). **HR**—Santander (3), off Lyles; Henderson (3), off Lyles; Fermin (1), off Rodriguez; Perez (6), off Rodriguez; Isbel (1), off Rodriguez. **RBIs**—Santander 2 (13), Mullins 3 (26), Mateo (19), Henderson 2 (6), Urías 4 (15), Garcia (2), Fermin 2 (2), Perez 2 (18), Isbel 2 (9), Pasquantino (15), Massey (6), Witt Jr. (13). **RISP**—Baltimore 7 for 14; Kansas City 6 for 18. **Runners moved up**—Rutschman, Pratto, Pasquantino. **GIDP**—Mountcastle, Pasquantino. **DP**—Baltimore 1 (Frazier, Mateo, Mountcastle); Kansas City 1 (Fermin, Pratto).

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez	3⅔	8	6	6	1	3	77	5.46
Pérez	1⅓	3	1	1	0	0	20	5.25
Baker, H, 7	⅓	1	0	0	2	0	18	1.72
Coulombe, BS, 0-1	⅔	2	2	2	1	2	21	2.38
Cano, W, 1-0	2	1	0	0	0	3	32	0.00
Bautista	1	1	1

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Rams agree to deal with Rypien

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Rams continued to add quarterback depth, agreeing to terms with **Brett Rypien**, the team announced Thursday.

Rypien, a fifth-year pro, joins a position group that includes veteran starter **Matthew Stafford** and rookie **Stetson Bennett**, a fourth-round pick in last week's NFL draft.

Rypien, 26, played at Boise State and signed with the Denver Broncos as an undrafted free agent in 2019. In eight games, including three starts, he passed for four touchdowns, with eight interceptions.

— Gary Klein

The New York Giants and defensive tackle **Dexter Lawrence** agreed to terms on a four-year, $90-million extension, according to a person with knowledge of the deal. ... The Kansas City Chiefs signed free-agent offensive tackle Donovan Smith to a one-year deal. ... The Cleveland Browns agreed to a one-year contract with veteran free-agent safety **Rodney McLeod**. ... **Taylor Lewan**, a three-time Pro Bowl left tackle released by the Tennessee Titans in February over a failed physical, filed a lawsuit against renowned orthopedist **Dr. James Andrews** for medical malpractice for the October 2020 surgery on his torn right ACL that he said left him with "severe and permanent" damage.

NBA

Milwaukee fires Budenholzer

The Milwaukee Bucks fired coach **Mike Budenholzer** just over a week after their stunning first-round playoff loss to the Miami Heat spoiled a season in which they held the NBA's best record. Budenholzer's ouster comes just two years after he directed the Bucks to their first NBA title in half a century.

Former NBA star **Shawn Kemp** pleaded not guilty to an assault charge in Tacoma, Wash., after prosecutors accused him of shooting at a man while attempting to retrieve a stolen cellphone. ... **Lance Blanks**, who played in the NBA for three seasons and most recently worked as a scout for the Clippers, has died at 56, his family announced.

ETC.

Horses out of Kentucky Derby

Three horses were scratched from the Kentucky Derby for very different reasons.

Santa Anita Derby winner Practical Move was scratched from the race on Saturday because he developed a slight fever after training.

Lord Miles was scratched after the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and Churchill Downs banned horses trained by **Saffie Joseph Jr.** following the death of two of his horses in the first few days of racing at the track.

Also scratched was Japanese horse Continuar, who trainer **Yoshido Yahagi** said was not in proper physical condition.

— John Cherwa

All-American forward **Hunter Dickinson**, who averaged 18.5 points and 9 rebounds at Michigan last season, announced in a social media post that he would play at Kansas next season.

Alabama fired baseball coach **Brad Bohannon** after a report of suspicious bets involving his team, with the school saying he violated "the standards, duties and responsibilities expected of university employees."

Ido David had 17 kills to lead the UCLA men's volleyball team to a three-game sweep of Long Beach State in the NCAA semifinals. UCLA will play Hawaii, which beat Penn State in five sets, in the finals Saturday.

TENNIS RESULTS

$8.5-MILLION MADRID OPEN
At Madrid
Surface: Red clay

MEN'S SINGLES (quarterfinals)—Aslan Karatsev, Russia, d. Zhang Zhizhen, China, 7-6 (3), 6-4; Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, d. Stefanos Tsitsipas (4), Greece, 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES (semifinals)—Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, d. Maria Sakkari (9), Greece, 6-4, 6-1; Iga Swiatek (1), Poland, d. Veronika Kudermetova (12), Russia, 6-1, 6-1.

MEN'S DOUBLES (semifinals)—Rohan Bopanna, India-Matthew Ebden (7), Australia, d. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France-Santiago Gonzalez (8), Mexico, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 10-4; Karen Khachanov-Andrey Rublev, Russia, d. Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands-Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez (4), El Salvador, 6-4, 6-4.

PRO CALENDAR

	FRI 5	SAT 6	SUN 7	MON 8	TUE 9
DODGERS	at San Diego 6:30 SNLA	at San Diego 5:30 SNLA	at San Diego 4 ESPN	at Milwaukee 4:30 SNLA	at Milwaukee 4:30 SNLA
ANGELS	TEXAS 6:30 BSW	TEXAS 6 BSW	TEXAS 1 BSW	HOUSTON 6:30 BSW	HOUSTON 6:30 BSW
LAKERS		GOLDEN ST.* 5:30 Ch. 7		GOLDEN ST.* 7 TNT	
GALAXY		COLORADO 7:30 Apple TV			
LAFC		at San Jose 4:30 Apple TV			MONTEREY BAY FC** 7:30
ANGEL CITY			KANSAS CITY 5 BSSC, Paramount+		

Shade denotes home game.

*NBA playoffs **US Open Cup

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
11:30 a.m.	Formula One, Miami Grand Prix, practice	**TV:** ESPN2, ESPND
3 p.m.	Formula One, Miami Grand Prix, second practice	**TV:** ESPN2, ESPND
BASEBALL		
11:15 a.m.	Miami at Chicago Cubs	**TV:** MLB
6:30 p.m.	Texas at Angels	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830, 1330
6:30 p.m.	Dodgers at San Diego	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
6:30 p.m.	Washington at Arizona	**TV:** MLB
BASKETBALL: NBA PLAYOFFS, SECOND ROUND		
4:30 p.m.	Boston at Philadelphia, Game 3	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
7 p.m.	Denver at Phoenix, Game 3	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
5 p.m.	Vanderbilt at Alabama	**TV:** SEC
5 p.m.	Boston College at Wake Forest	**TV:** ACC
8 p.m.	Washington at Washington State	**TV:** Pac-12
COLLEGE BEACH VOLLEYBALL: NCAA TOURNAMENT, FIRST ROUND		
7 a.m.	UCLA vs. Texas A&M Corpus Christi	**TV:** ESPNU
8 a.m.	Long Beach State vs. California	**TV:** ESPNU
9 a.m.	Florida International vs. Florida State	**TV:** ESPNU
10 a.m.	Florida Atlantic vs. Louisiana State	**TV:** ESPNU
11 a.m.	Stetson vs. Texas Christian	**TV:** ESPNU
Noon	Stanford vs. Grand Canyon	**TV:** ESPNU
1 p.m.	Georgia State vs. USC	**TV:** ESPNU
2 p.m.	Hawaii vs. Loyola Marymount	**TV:** ESPNU
COLLEGE LACROSSE: CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS		
1 p.m.	Patriot League, Loyola (Md.) at Boston U.	**TV:** CBSSN
3 p.m.	Ivy League, Yale vs. Cornell	**TV:** ESPNU
4 p.m.	Patriot League, Lehigh vs. Army	**TV:** CBSSN
5:30 p.m.	Ivy League, Princeton vs. Penn	**TV:** ESPNU
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
2:30 p.m.	Maryland at Illinois	**TV:** Big Ten
4 p.m.	Oklahoma at Oklahoma State	**TV:** ESPN2
4:30 p.m.	Iowa at Wisconsin	**TV:** Big Ten
6 p.m.	Utah at Oregon	**TV:** Pac-12
7:30 p.m.	Washington at Stanford	**TV:** ESPNU
GOLF		
4 a.m.	DP World Tour, Italian Open, second round	**TV:** Golf
9 a.m.	Champions Tour, Mitsubishi Electric Classic, first round	**TV:** Golf
11 a.m.	Wells Fargo Championship, second round	**TV:** Golf
3 p.m.	LPGA Hanwa LIFEPLUS International Crown, second round	**TV:** Golf
4:30 a.m. (Sat.)	DP World Tour, Italian Open, third round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS, SECOND ROUND		
5 p.m.	New Jersey at Carolina, Game 2	**TV:** TNT
HORSE RACING		
7:30 a.m.	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** FS2
Noon	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** BSSC
10 a.m.	Kentucky Oaks	**TV:** USA
SOCCER		
Noon	Portugal, Portimonense at Casa Pia	**TV:** GOLTV
4:30 p.m.	Canada, Forge FC at York United	**TV:** FS2
5 p.m.	Ecuador, Tecnico Universitario at Orense	**TV:** GOLTV
8 p.m.	Mexico, women, Monterrey at Atlas	**TV:** FOXD
TENNIS		
7 a.m.	Madrid Open, men's semifinals	**TV:** Tennis
11 a.m.	Madrid Open, men's semifinals	**TV:** Tennis

Ouster by Padres lingers for Dodgers

[**Dodgers,** from B10]

"steps to success" that sometimes feel inevitable in team sports.

"In sports, you get used to that," Roberts said. "Because there's only one champion every year. So our DNA is to be able to sustain that, and continue to move forward."

Roberts would know better than most.

Six months earlier, on a rainy October night in San Diego, his team was in a similar position. Their own record-breaking, 111-win regular season had ended in stunning — and early — fashion at the hands of the Padres in a National League Division Series.

And just like Antetokounmpo and the Bucks, they too had to grapple with the meaning of "failure" in the wake of their latest, and most pronounced, postseason disappointment.

"People that are gonna say it was a failure, they haven't gone through what we're going through," Roberts said this week, ahead of the Dodgers' first rematch with the Padres since last year's NLDS. "That's what's different in sports than anything else. It just takes a certain psyche to be able to handle that."

And six months later, that's the emotion that, for many in the Dodgers clubhouse, lingers most going into this weekend's series at Petco Park.

Not animosity for the Padres. Not a preoccupation with their budding rivalry. But a lingering discontent with themselves, and the narrative of failure that surrounds the way their 2022 season ended.

Robert Gauthier Los Angeles Times

WILL SMITH, shown in last season's NLDS, and the Dodgers take a six-game winning streak into Friday.

"Ultimately, the goal is to win, so if you didn't accomplish that, that's a failure," third baseman Max Muncy said. "But I think along the [way], you can accomplish so much, and you can have so many successes and other things that's not a failure. So for me, it's a two-part thing."

Muncy pointed to the Dodgers' regular-season triumphs in 2022, when they led the league in scoring, runs against and became just the seventh team in history with 110 or more wins.

"To me, that's not a failure," he said. "But at the end of the day, we didn't win the World Series. So I understand both sides of that."

When reflecting on last year's NLDS specifically, Muncy's biggest regret had less to do with the opponent and more about "how we lost" the best-of-five series in four games, "having the other team play with more energy, almost like they were hungrier for it than we were," he said.

"When you lose in that sort of fashion, I think that stings a lot more than just being outplayed," Muncy continued, echoing a sentiment that was shared by Roberts and others in the wake of the Dodgers' elimination. "Obviously, everyone is gonna say they outplayed us, and that's probably true. But to me, it was more, they just brought so much more energy and were so much hungrier for it."

Muncy's hope is the Dodgers will be better for it.

"I think we learned that lesson that you have to learn how to play with emotion," he said. "During the regular season, we've always been so successful because we stay level-headed throughout the entire thing. You can't play 162 with emotion. But, when we reach the playoffs, we have trouble flipping that switch."

First baseman Freddie Freeman added another viewpoint this week.

He pragmatically noted the Dodgers' situational hitting woes last October, an unforeseen issue after the team excelled in such spots during the regular season.

"What can you learn? I mean, I learned we needed to get some hits with runners in scoring position," Freeman deadpanned. "I could give you cliches, but to be honest, baseball is different. ... You just got to get it done. And if you can't get it done, you'll have the same result. That's just how it is, until one year everything kind of magically works together and you win."

And did the Dodgers' inability to do so last year constitute a failure?

"I don't say it's a failure," he said. "You just didn't achieve what you wanted to achieve, and then you start over again."

The Dodgers have found a groove over the last week. They've won six games in a row. They've taken an early lead in the NL West. And during a 6-0 homestand, they showed flashes of the kind of contender they believe they are.

"It's really starting to come together," Muncy said.

That's why, while this weekend might represent a slightly more significant step — the team even realigned its rotation to have top starters Clayton Kershaw, Dustin May and Julio Urías pitch against the Padres — their long-term goals will take more time.

They're still trying to rectify their frustrations from the way last year ended. To erase the label of failure they carried into this new season.

"I say it all the time," Muncy said, putting the importance of the Padres rivalry into perspective. "You're almost playing yourself more than the opponent."

NL West rivals Dodgers, Padres vying for top-dog status

[**Roundtable,** from B10]

Harris, Jorge Castillo, Mike DiGiovanna and Bill Shaikin joined Kevin Acee, Padres beat reporter for the Union-Tribune, to discuss the upcoming series and all other things Dodgers and Padres.

The Dodgers won all six regular-season series against the Padres last season, but the Padres won the one that mattered the most. What carryover, if any, should we expect from that NLDS?

Harris: From the Dodgers' side, not much. Many of the key players from that series left this offseason. And the ones who remain have downplayed the significance of any one regular-season series. They know they didn't show up last October. And they know the Padres represent their chief competition in the division this year.

Acee: The Padres finally know — really know — they can beat the Dodgers. There is no denying that was big for them. They still must hit against Clayton Kershaw, Dustin May and Julio Urías this weekend.

Shaikin: The carryover will be in the stands. Petco Park came alive in the NLDS — after the Padres blocked Dodgers fans from buying tickets — and the residual excitement carried over so much that the Padres have run out of season tickets to sell. "Beat L.A." has never sounded so loud. For the players? It's the first week in May, with two games separating the teams and five months to go.

Castillo: It'll be difficult to quantify if there is any carryover. This was already a budding rivalry before the NLDS. The teams already disliked each other. The atmosphere for these games was already different. Sure, we'll see more intensity and better crowds than your average May game, but that was going to happen even without that October matchup.

This rivalry has been brewing for a few years now. The Padres' upset — and their ensuing offseason spending spree — just added more spice to it.

Juan Soto said a few weeks ago: "We don't worry about [the Dodgers]. They should be worrying about us." Is he right?

DiGiovanna: Yes. While the Dodgers have had their share of injuries and paternity-list absences, they've played closer to their potential than the Padres, who are still integrating Fernando Tatis Jr. back into the lineup, Joe Musgrove back into the rotation and should get much more production out of Manny Machado than they did in the first month. The bullpen will also get a huge boost when setup man Robert Suarez returns from an elbow injury.

Harris: In one sense, yes. The Padres are the biggest threat to the Dodgers' NL West crown. And they proved that, if the teams were to meet in the postseason again this October, they have more than enough firepower to compete. That said, the Padres also struggled mightily against the Dodgers in the regular season. They had to traverse a tougher postseason path because of it.

Acee: If Soto continues hitting as he has the past week (.450/.621/.800) and not as he did most of the first month (.178/.339/.344) then that is a far more plausible claim. The Padres do seem to have the better players at many positions, which was almost comically not the case for the last decade-plus.

Castillo: Based on how the first month went, the Padres should be worried about every team they face. And the same goes for the Dodgers. Neither club is going to run away with this division.

Neither team had a memorable April, but both seem to have found their footing, the Dodgers having won six in a row and 10 of their last 13 and the Padres having won nine of 13. What's your brief analysis of both teams?

Harris: For the Dodgers, it's been pitching and offensive consistency. The bullpen was a mess early on, though they've recently restructured their late-game plans around Evan Phillips, Brusdar Graterol and Caleb Ferguson. The offense had been very feast or famine, though it has benefited recently from getting its biggest stars back at full strength.

Acee: The Padres played mostly excellent defense and pitched pretty well. Their 13-14 record on April 27 was easily explained. Through that date, they ranked 29th in batting average, 24th in on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 29th in batting average with runners in scoring position and 27th in runs per game. Soto's numbers are referenced above, Machado is still hitting just .235/.281/.378 and Tatis Jr.'s season did not begin until April 20.

Shaikin: For the Dodgers, I turn to this succinct recitation of ills, from Times columnist Dylan Hernández: "Their lineup is top-heavy. Their infield defense borders on awful. Their bullpen is unreliable. Their starting pitching has major gaps." Imagine what he would say if the Dodgers weren't leading the National League in runs scored, leading the NL West in earned-run average and weren't in first place.

Castillo: The Padres have more elite talent. The Dodgers have better depth. For that reason, the Padres, on paper, are better built for the postseason and the Dodgers, on paper, are better built for the regular season. We saw a version of that last year. The Dodgers were significantly deeper than San Diego ... but the Padres stars stepped up in a short series.

How many wins is it going to take to a) win the National League West and b) earn a wild card?

Harris: Ninety-six wins feels like a good number to win the NL West (which is about the pace the first-place Dodgers are currently on). As far as the wild card, it's tough to tell this early, though last year's mark of 87 wins feels like a safe bet again.

Acee: The way the season is going so far, it feels like somewhere in the mid-90s will win the division and the mid-80s could at least get the final wild-card spot. But the season can't keep going like this, can it?

Shaikin: In the last three nonpandemic seasons, the NL West was won with 111, 107 and 106 victories. I'll take 92 this time, and 87 for a wild card.

Castillo: Ninety-three for division, 89 for wild card.

DiGiovanna: I think it will take 97-98 wins to win the division and 91-92 wins to earn a wild-card berth.

SPORTS

WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS :: GAME 2

GOLDEN STATE 127, LAKERS 100

SERIES TIED 1-1 | **GAME 3:** SATURDAY AT LAKERS, 5:30 P.M., CHANNEL 7

NO-SHOW TIME

Davis isn't a factor at either end as Lakers suffer huge blowout loss that evens the series

By Dan Woike

SAN FRANCISCO — As Moses Moody swung on the rim and after LeBron James stood flat-footed, the five Lakers heads on the court all dropped, eyes pointed to the floor. There were still 2.2 seconds left in the third quarter, but James caught the inbounds pass and dribbled out the clock.

There was no decision for Darvin Ham to make, no comeback to try to put together.

Down 30, the Lakers leader made it obvious.

They were done. And even with 12 more minutes to play, this game was over.

Officially, the Lakers lost 127-100, but it was finished way before that.

"They made the adjustments. We knew they were going to do that," James said. "That's what a championship team does, and they held serve on the home court."

Anthony Davis, the two-way dominant force, didn't have the juice at either end of the floor as the Warriors stacked 40-plus points in back-to-back quarters to turn Game 2 into a blowout. Draymond Green guarded him and the Warriors' smaller lineups made it almost impossible for the Lakers

[See **Lakers,** B7]

Wally Skalij Los Angeles Times

LeBRON JAMES DRIVES to the basket between Andrew Wiggins, left, and Donte DiVincenzo. James and Rui Hachimura helped the Lakers to a seven-point lead in the first quarter, but the club couldn't find consistent offense from anyone else the rest of the way.

Lakers are jolted back to reality

BILL PLASCHKE

SAN FRANCISCO — It was a reality check swatted across the mouth.

It was an equalizer pounded into the ribs.

It was precisely what is printed on those silly shirts worn by the screaming locals.

It was Gold Blooded.

News flash! The Golden State Warriors aren't going to go down easy.

News flash! The Lakers are going to make this really hard.

Handed a literal golden opportunity to severely damage the defending NBA champions in the Western Conference semifinals Thursday, the Lakers squandered a 1-0 series lead after coming face-to-face with the heart of, well, a warrior.

It was Game 2 that was game on.

It was Golden State pummel-

[See **Plaschke,** B7]

Epic playoff exit is a hanging nerve

Dodgers try to move on from NLDS, but loss lingers going into rematch with Padres.

By Jack Harris

Dave Roberts immediately recognized the feeling.

The first time the Dodgers manager watched the viral video of Giannis Antetokounmpo's news conference answer about the nature of "failure" last week — when the Milwaukee Bucks star considered the meaning of the word in the wake of his team's shocking first-round postseason elimination — Roberts couldn't help but relate.

To the way Antetokounmpo rubbed his hands on his head, visually grappling with the dichotomy of a great regular season that ultimately featured just a lone playoff win.

To how the NBA icon tried to compartmentalize the accomplishments of his team's overall performance against the fact it had fallen woefully short of its ultimate goal.

To the exasperation present in Antetokounmpo's voice, straining as he tried to reframe his club's early exit not as an outright failure but one of the many painful

[See **Dodgers,** B9]

Wally Skalij Los Angeles Times

MAX MUNCY and the Dodgers saw their 111-win season end at Petco Park last October.

Assessing a long, changed rivalry

Dodgers, Padres beat writers analyze upcoming series, last year's ramifications.

By Times staff

The Dodgers and Padres will meet for the first time this season when the teams play a three-game series beginning Friday in San Diego.

It was at Petco Park, of course, where the Dodgers' 2022 season came to a shocking end with a four-game loss to the Padres in a National League Division Series.

The Dodgers entered the postseason as the heavy World Series favorites after winning a franchise-record 111 games, including 14 of 19 against the Padres, who finished 22 games back in the National League West. But after taking Game 1 at Dodger Stadium, the Dodgers lost three in a row — the last two in San Diego — to suffer one of the biggest playoff disappointments in their history.

Conversely, the series' win was one of the biggest in Padres' history. The headline on the sports cover of the San Diego Union-Tribune read simply: DRAGON SLAYERS!

In a roundtable discus-

[See **Roundtable,** B9]

Rams sign Rypien as backup

Former Broncos No. 2 will play behind Matthew Stafford as team retools its quarterback position. **B9**

Angels make it a St. Louis sweep

Luis Rengifo's bat leads the way in taking three from the Cardinals to push four games over .500. **B8**

Sparks players welcome change

They say there is a newfound professionalism under team's first-year general manager and coach. **B7**

ANDY LYONS Getty Images

SKINNER AT a morning training session at Churchill Downs. He didn't win until his fourth race but then took third in the San Felipe Stakes and Santa Anita Derby.

HE'S IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN

Shirreffs doesn't rush into anything, and his slow and steady approach to training seems a perfect fit for Skinner, a late entry into the Kentucky Derby

By John Cherwa

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — John Shirreffs has been training horses for more than four decades. He doesn't have a big stable and averages fewer than 100 starts a year. He's the personification of slow and steady.

So it was no surprise that he wasn't going to bring his 3-year-old colt Skinner to the Kentucky Derby without being assured he would make the starting gate. He was at the top of the list if a spot in the 20-horse field opened up but that wasn't good enough. Too risky.

"I felt that we better be in the field rather than ship here and just hope to get in," Shirreffs said, standing outside the single stall he had been assigned at Churchill Downs. "At that late a time I didn't think it would be a very good opportunity."

Obviously, Skinner did make the field but Shirreffs acknowledged he didn't like the way he got in. A spot opened when Wild on Ice was injured during training April 27 and was subsequently euthanized.

This will be Shirreffs' sixth appearance at the Kentucky Derby, which is Saturday. He set a high bar the first time in 2005 when Giacomo, at 50-1, stunned the racing world as he rallied from far behind to win the race.

"Giacomo was such a special moment in my life," said the 77-year-old trainer. "With Giacomo it was my first time at the Kentucky Derby, maybe my second time at Churchill. I had that wonderful feeling of coming to Churchill Downs to run in the Kentucky Derby.

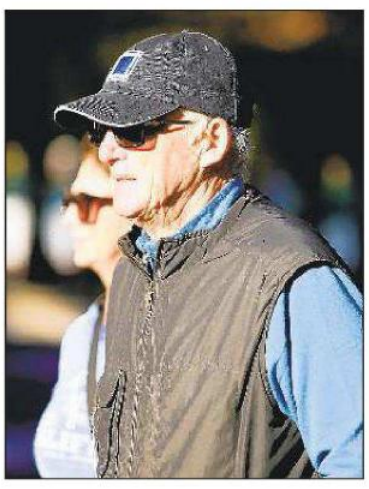
"It's a special feeling when it first happens. We had a wonderful crew with me. We were all pumped up. When [Giacomo] first came here he galloped around the race track and the rider said, 'He really likes this track.' Things just started click, click, clicking into place."

Shirreffs seems the perfect trainer for Skinner. He was not a cheap purchase with Lee and Susan Searing putting up $510,000 to buy the horse. The Searings use several trainers but their best horses tend to end up with Shirreffs. Skinner's sire is Curlin, whose progeny tend to be slow developing. And Shirreffs does not rush into anything.

Did Shirreffs think Skinner was a Derby horse?

"Oh no, I didn't think that," Shirreffs said. "But obviously you go to the sale and spend a lot of money on horses and hope that something like that can happen."

Skinner didn't win until his fourth race. He followed that with third-place finishes in the San Felipe Stakes and Santa Anita Derby.



Horsephotos/Getty Images

JOHN SHIRREFFS will make his sixth Derby appearance. He won in 2005 with Giacomo in what he called "a special moment in my life."

"In his first few races he was a little immature and didn't understand the concept of horses kicking dirt in his face and getting squeezed and things like that," Shirreffs said. "Since then he's had a lot of good racing experience."

Skinner, at 20-1 on the morning line, is holding firm as the top horse by the "wiseguys," the euphemism used for professional gamblers. There is one or two every year and they go off at odds much lower than expected.

"I've never taken the time to understand the [handicapping] sheets but a lot of people do and they say his numbers are really competitive with the field," Shirreffs said.

Skinner will have a new jockey for the Derby. Shirreffs made the difficult decision to not use three-time Derby winner and Hall of Fame jockey Victor Espinoza, who had ridden the colt the last five times. Instead, he went with Juan Hernandez, the leading jockey at Santa Anita who has never been in a Derby.

"Victor is a good friend of mine," Shirreffs said, acknowledging the hurt feelings it can cause when a jockey is taken off a horse late in the Derby season. "I didn't need the change but I thought maybe Skinner needed a change. I was hoping a different rider would get to Skinner in a different way and that might help him in that last little bit."

After Giacomo, Shirreffs ran A.P. Warrior (18th) in 2006, Tiago (seventh) in 2007, Gormley (ninth) in 2017 and Honor A.P. (fourth) in 2020. The trainer has noticed one change at the Kentucky Derby through the years.

"Obviously everyone wants to run in the Derby," Shirreffs said, "but now you have to earn points to get your horse in and I think that's very important. But once that horse has qualified for the Derby, people don't want to take any chances. Getting that spot is the most important thing.

"It's still the Derby and to every generation the Derby is the Derby. Things change generationally. Or maybe I've changed but it seems like running in the Derby is something that everybody wants to do."

It's extremely unlikely any horse Shirreffs trains now or in the future will top his 20-race run with Zenyatta, arguably the greatest female horse. She won 19 of those races.

She made her first start in late November of her 3-year-old campaign. Shirreffs does not rush things. It's a formula that seems to be working.

Three horses scratched from Kentucky Derby

BY JOHN CHERWA

LOUISVILLE, Ky — Three horses were scratched from the Kentucky Derby for very different reasons.

Santa Anita Derby winner Practical Move was scratched from the race on Saturday because he developed a slight fever after training Thursday.

"He spiked a temp on us," trainer Tim Yakteen said. "He might have a bug and was reacting to it. But you have to do the right thing by the horse — that's our focus. He's such a gifted horse."

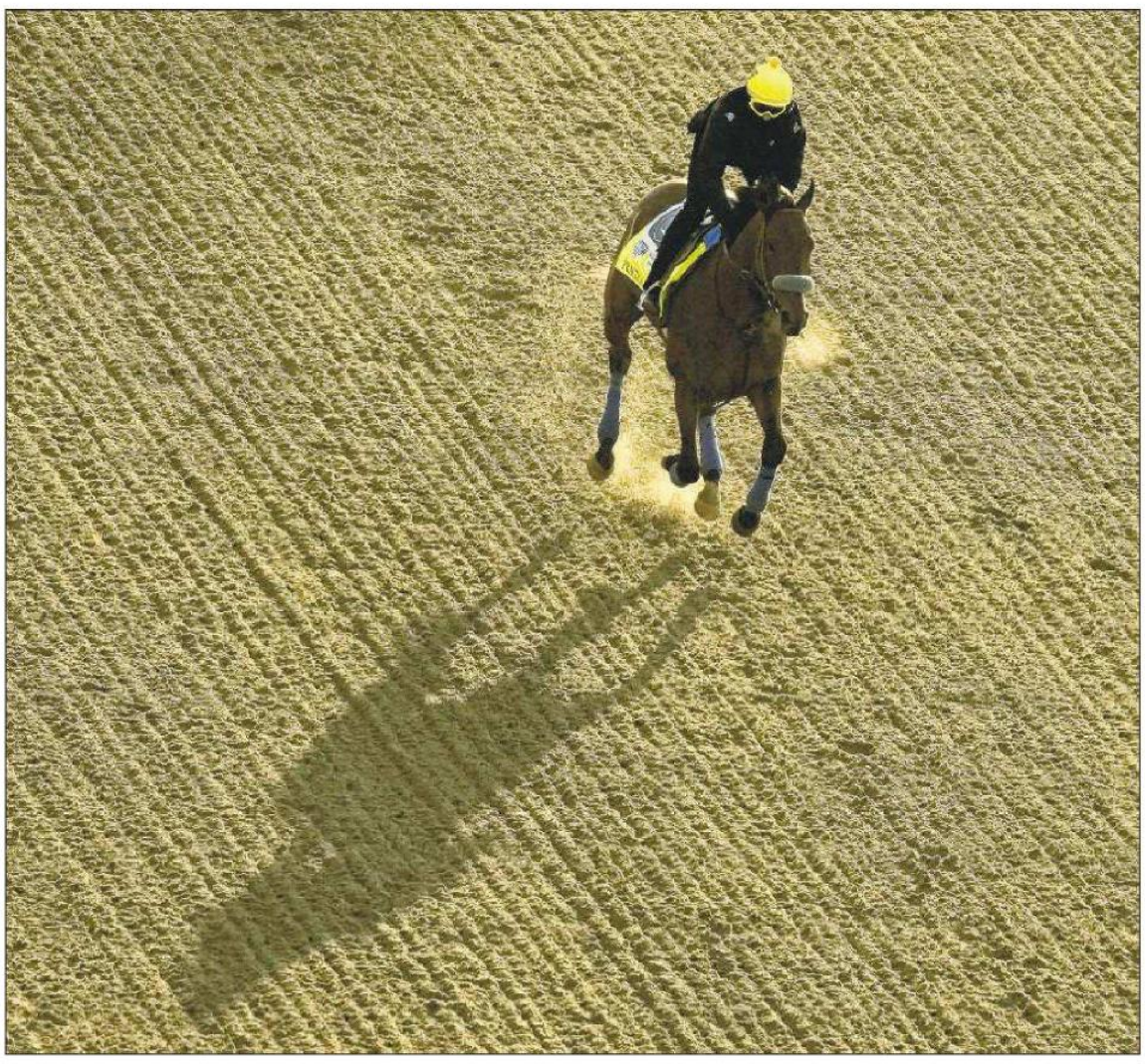
Later in the day, Lord Miles also was scratched after the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission and Churchill Downs banned horses trained by Saffie Joseph Jr. following the death of two of his horses in the first few days of racing at the track.

The Board of Stewards issued the following statement:

"For the betterment of racing, the health and welfare of our equine athletes, and the safety of our jockeys, all horses trained by trainer Saffie Joseph, Jr. are scratched effective immediately and until further notice. This action is taken after consultation with Mr. Joseph ... ."

Lord Miles was 30-1 on the morning line. Cyclone Mischief and Santa Anita Derby runner-up Mandarin Hero were added to the race.

Also scratched was the Japanese horse Continuar, who was 50-1 on the morning line.



CHARLIE RIEDEL Associated Press

PRACTICAL MOVE worked out at Churchill Downs on Thursday but soon developed a slight fever that led trainer Tim Yakteen to scratch the horse from the Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

"After evaluating the colt upon my arrival, I feel that he has not been able to reach the peak fitness required to take on a race as tough as the Kentucky Derby," trainer Yoshido Yahagi said.

Four horses have died at Churchill Downs since April 27. On Saturday, Parents Pride, a 4-year-old filly trained by Joseph, was pulled up in the stretch and collapsed and died on the track. On Tuesday, Chasing Artie, a 5-year-old gelding for Joseph, collapsed near the winner's circle after running a race. Both horses are owned by Ken Ramsey.

Practical Move had vaulted to the top of the Southern California 3-year-old list with a 2½-length win in the San Felipe after winning the Los Alamitos Futurity. He was then the even-money favorite for the Santa Anita Derby and won by a nose over Mandarin Hero.

Yakteen first thought something was wrong Thursday morning when the colt wasn't eating with his normal intensity.

"When he didn't jump into the feed tub, we temped him and started watching," Yakteen said. "At first it was on the high normal side of 101. And then it was 101.8 and climbing. Once you get to 102 you've got concerns."

Yakteen said the normal temperature of a horse is between 100 and 100.4.

Owners Pierre and Leslie Amestoy declined to comment, citing the state of their emotions.

"They are devastated," Yakteen said. "It's been such a wonderful journey, and it's just very difficult."

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Sideshow and Janus Films

ALESSANDRO BORGHI and Luca Marinelli in the stunning and emotional "The Eight Mountains," set in the Italian Alps.

MOVIE REVIEW

Friendship at a peak

'The Eight Mountains' follows two men with a relationship as vast and awe-inspiring as its setting

By Justin Chang
FILM CRITIC

In the most exhilarating moment in "The Eight Mountains," a movie of soaring visual majesty and churning emotional force, a dark-haired young man named Pietro (Luca Marinelli) clambers excitedly up a rocky slope somewhere in the Italian Alps, the camera keeping pace with his slow but steady ascent. In time, he makes it to the top and, barely pausing to take in the staggering view, crows in triumph to his friend Bruno (Alessandro Borghi), who's doing some construction work down in the valley below. It's a blissful, tender image of friendship that, like so many images in this movie, contains bittersweet multitudes. Here are two pals sharing a moment of exquisite communion, but who are nonetheless forebodingly separated by a chasm, one that will keep widening despite their every attempt to bridge it.

The scene is especially moving because even by this point, fairly early in a picture that runs almost 2½ hours and spans a few decades, you already have a good understanding of who Pietro and Bruno are, how they live, what they long for. You might flash back to an earlier moment from their boyhood days, when young Pietro (Lupo Barbiero), unaccustomed to high altitudes, collapsed in exhaustion while mountain climbing, embarrassing himself in front of his nature-loving father, Giovanni (Filippo Timi), and the tougher, hardier Bruno (Cristiano Sassella). And so it means something when, years later, the fully grown [See **Peak,** E6]

Drag star is accused of sex assault

DJ Pierce, known as Shangela, denies a 'We're Here' worker's allegation of rape.

By Jessica Gelt

The HBO Max reality series "We're Here" stars three well-known drag queens — former "RuPaul's Drag Race" contestants Bob the Drag Queen, Eureka O'Hara and Shangela — as they traverse small-town America and recruit locals to participate in one-night-only drag shows.

Sweet, funny and empowering, the show follows the queens as they connect with LGBTQ+ people who haven't had many opportunities to be out and proud. The series has earned a Peabody Award nomination, won two Emmys and later this month is up for another GLAAD Media Award for outstanding reality program. The series has been a beacon of light during an extremely fractious time in America: In March, Tennessee, perpetuating falsehoods about drag queens as threats to children, became the first state to restrict drag shows in public spaces or anywhere minors might be present.

The creators behind "We're Here" have long worked hard to fashion the series as an optimistic, loving rebuke to hate and prejudice, but now the show faces [See **Shangela,** E2]

Greg Endries HBO

SHANGELA, the star of HBO show "We're Here."

In the process of disappearing

A visual memoir by MariNaomi depicts memories lost with a friend's departure. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

TELEVISION REVIEW

'Bridgerton' crowns its monarch

Prequel series 'Queen Charlotte' brings new complexity and depth to the franchise.

LORRAINE ALI
TELEVISION CRITIC

Clutch your bosom and reach for the smelling salts. "Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story" has finally arrived, and the prequel is the best "Bridgerton" yet.

For the uninitiated: "Queen Charlotte" follows two previous seasons of Netflix's whimsical drama about romance, matchmaking and carnal pursuits among England's Regency-era aristocracy. The first season was a playful, revisionist history at its best: The ton was a colorblind mix of races, the queen was Black, and twee orchestras [See **'Charlotte,'** E3]

Liam Daniel Netflix

"QUEEN CHARLOTTE" jumps between two timelines, with India Amarteifio, center, as the young monarch who marries Corey Mylchreest's King George III.

When the blacklist roiled Hollywood

Exhibit at the Skirball traces an infamous history, telling it as a 'Los Angeles story.'

By Deborah Vankin

For the Skirball Cultural Center's Cate Thurston, serving as coordinating curator for the museum's next big exhibition was deeply personal.

"Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare" is about a complex and not-so-proud moment in U.S. history.

It was organized by the Jewish Museum Milwaukee in Wisconsin and centers, in part, on the Hollywood Ten — eight screenwriters, one director and one producer — who, when testifying before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1947 about allegations of communist propaganda, refused to answer certain questions and were charged with contempt of Congress and sentenced to one year in jail.

It includes more than 100 rarely seen artifacts — scripts, telegrams, Oscar statuettes, film costumes, court documents — that tell the infamous story of the Hollywood blacklist.

Thurston, a third-generation Angeleno who grew up in the San Fernando Valley, has a family connection to the exhibition. Her grandparents were story analysts and screenwriters for RKO Pictures, Paramount Pictures and MGM, among other studios. Her great uncle Irwin Shaw, a screenwriter and author whose 1948 novel "The Young Lions" was later made into a film starring Marlon Brando, Montgomery Clift and Dean Martin, was blacklisted.

[See **Skirball,** E6]

HBO

"WE'RE HERE" stars Shangela, left, Eureka O'Hara, Bob the Drag Queen. The show uplifts LGBTQ+ culture and has won two Emmys.

Drag star accused of sexual assault

[**Shangela,** from E1]
condemnation from an entirely different place: from within.

Former "We're Here" production assistant Daniel McGarrigle filed a lawsuit Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court alleging that Darius Jeremy (DJ) Pierce, the actor who performs drag under the name Shangela, raped McGarrigle in a Louisiana hotel room following a 2020 crew party.

McGarrigle's lawsuit describes an alleged post-party scene in which an inebriated McGarrigle fell asleep fully clothed in Pierce's hotel room. McGarrigle awoke, the suit says, with his pants pulled down and with Pierce attempting to penetrate him. According to the suit, McGarrigle screamed "No" and tried to fight off Pierce but was overpowered, with Pierce allegedly telling McGarrigle, "I know you want it, and you're going to take it." The suit, which also names "We're Here" production company Buckingham Television, alleges sexual assault, gender violence, false imprisonment and sexual harassment.

Through his lawyer, Pierce declined to answer questions but issued a statement strongly denying the accusations.

"I can't begin to explain how hurt and disgusted I am by these totally untrue allegations. They are personally offensive and perpetuate damaging stereotypes that are harmful not only to me but also to my entire community," he said. "An external investigation into this embittered individual's claims previously concluded that they were completely without merit. This newest filing is nothing but an attempt to shake down both me and a well-regarded television company. No one should be fooled: It has no basis in fact or in law, and it will not succeed. As a hard-working and outspoken drag entertainer for more

DANIEL MCGARRIGLE

McGARRIGLE alleges in a lawsuit that DJ Pierce (Shangela) raped him.

than a decade, I know that I am far from alone in battling ignorance, bigotry and prejudice, all of which played a role in the filing of this complaint. That is why I will fight this entirely meritless lawsuit and not allow it to destroy me and those I love, or harm the causes we all stand for."

A representative for "We're Here" issued the following statement to The Times:

"Buckingham Television, the production company for 'We're Here,' received a complaint late summer 2021 regarding an incident that was alleged to have occurred in early 2020. Buckingham and HBO take the safety and well-being of personnel on our shows very seriously, and Buckingham immediately launched an investigation. The investigation concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support these allegations."

McGarrigle's suit cites Feb. 25, 2020, as the date of the "We're Here" party. Cast and crew had gathered at El Toro, a restaurant and bar in Ruston, La., to celebrate the final day of production for the fifth episode of Season 1, the suit says.

Pierce "insisted" on buying McGarrigle drinks and continued to buy shots for various sections of the crew, including McGarrigle in every round, the suit says. After the party, Pierce invited McGarrigle back to his hotel room to help him pack for an early morning flight, the suit says.

McGarrigle felt sick on the ride to the hotel and vomited in the toilet upon arrival to Pierce's hotel room, the suit says.

"Pierce rubbed his back as he vomited and brought him a cup of water," the suit says. "After McGarrigle had finished throwing up, Pierce suggested he spend the night with him in his room. ... Sick and exhausted, McGarrigle agreed. He laid down in Pierce's bed fully clothed, shoes and socks still on."

McGarrigle woke up to a cold liquid being poured on his face, burning his eyes and nose, the suit says. McGarrigle alleges that the liquid was a type of poppers, a chemical inhalant that contains alkyl nitrites, sometimes used during sex to relax muscles and create a euphoric head rush. The suit alleges that McGarrigle felt weak, disoriented and overcome by fear.

"I tried to fight him off, but I was weak and he was stronger than me, and he held me down," McGarrigle said in a Zoom interview with The Times, sobbing with his mother beside him offscreen for support.

McGarrigle did not immediately report the sexual assault to authorities or to Buckingham Television because he feared losing his job, says the suit, which listed his duties as including "serving as an assistant and driver for Pierce."

"Instead, he tried to maintain a cordial relationship with Pierce, without changing the way he interacted or communicated with him," the suit says.

The suit alleges that Pierce sexually harassed McGarrigle "on a daily basis" until McGarrigle resigned in July 2021, and that the harassment took the form of "asking him out for drinks, touching with lingering hands various parts of McGarrigle's body such as his lower back and buttocks, face, stomach, knees, and thighs, while making suggestive comments about how good Plaintiff looked."

Caleb Shoop, a production coordinator on Season 2 of "We're Here," said in an interview with The Times that McGarrigle told him about the alleged rape in summer 2021. Shoop said McGarrigle told him that he had not come forward with allegations because "he thought that it might keep the show from being what it is for the queer community."

A second "We're Here" crew member who spoke to The Times on the condition of anonymity said McGarrigle spoke of the alleged rape and warned about Pierce before they began working on Season 2 in March 2021.

McGarrigle's brother, Ryan, worked as a production assistant on "We're Here" for Season 1. McGarrigle eventually told his brother about the alleged rape after Ryan became Shangela's wrangler (handling day-to-day needs) in Season 2, Ryan said. The brothers had been sharing a hotel room before the cast and crew party, and Ryan told The Times that his brother returned to the room the following morning looking as though he had been crying.

"He definitely was upset and he was crying and it was concerning," Ryan said, adding that McGarrigle said he had spilled some poppers in his eyes.

"We're Here" was co-created by entertainment lawyer and former GLAAD board co-chair Steven Warren and advertising creative director Johnnie Ingram, both of whom declined to be interviewed for this article.

When McGarrigle stopped working for the show in September 2021, he said, he called Ingram to report the alleged rape.

McGarrigle said Warren called him shortly after, and he told Warren his account as well.

McGarrigle said he hoped that Ingram and Warren would replace Pierce with a different star for the show's third season. When that didn't happen, McGarrigle wrote to Ingram on Instagram in February 2022. The Times reviewed what McGarrigle said were screenshots of his Instagram messages to Ingram.

"Hey, I just wanted to thank you for listening to me when I told you what happened to me," said one of McGarrigle's alleged messages to Ingram. "I could tell that you and Stephen were genuinely concerned and that your first thought wasn't the show." McGarrigle went on to say he decided to drop legal action against the production company.

"I'm not a threat to the show. But that does make Shangela even more of a liability now," McGarrigle wrote. "I can't say I'm surprised that she's still around. She is the poster girl for the show. I get that. But I would still start that process."

He added: "You always made my brother and me feel welcome and included. ... You and that family is the only reason I would not take it upon myself to out DJ [Pierce] for what he did to me. Because it would hurt my family and a show that is making a difference in my own LGBTQIA+ community."

Nonetheless, McGarrigle

> 'I can't begin to explain how hurt and disgusted I am by these totally untrue allegations.'
>
> — DJ PIERCE, in a statement to The Times

said watching Shangela being celebrated as a queer icon was so upsetting that he felt compelled to speak out. By late 2022, Shangela was making news as a popular contestant on Season 31 of "Dancing With the Stars." She made history as the first drag queen to compete in the U.S. iteration of the show, finishing fourth. In December, the Daily Beast ran a story headlined, "Shangela Is the Fearless Drag Queen America Needs Right Now."

Around that time, McGarrigle decided to take his allegations public on Instagram, but he quickly pulled down his rape accusations after backlash from Shangela's fans. McGarrigle's friends and family advised him to file a criminal complaint instead — which he did.

McGarrigle filed a report in November 2022 with the Ruston Police Department. Det. Chris Davis confirmed to The Times that the report was part of an "ongoing investigation."

In the roughly 12 hours that his Instagram post remained online, McGarrigle said, the accusations got picked up by a few gossip sites, and men he did not know reached out to allege that they too had been assaulted by Pierce. (The Times reviewed screenshots of messages in McGarrigle's inbox but has not verified the veracity of the senders' allegations.)

After McGarrigle shared his allegations with "We're Here" co-creators Ingram and Warren in September 2021, McGarrigle said, the production companies Industrial Media and IPC (both part of Sony Pictures Entertainment), which made "We're Here" in conjunction with HBO, opened an investigation. McGarrigle said that an investigator contacted him, but that he felt uncomfortable with the questions, as if he were being "grilled" and the investigation was "more self-serving ... than to help me."

McGarrigle said he would not continue to participate without the presence of a lawyer representing him. He said he didn't hear from an investigator again until he made the allegations on Instagram.

Leslie E. Wallis, an attorney with the firm Ogletree Deakins , which specializes in labor and employment counsel, was hired by the counsel for Industrial Media to investigate McGarrigle's allegations. In a letter dated Jan. 26, 2023, she invited McGarrigle to talk and reminded him that she also had reached out to him "in 2021 following your conversation with Steve Warren about an incident with Shangela following the Ruston, LA episode of We're Here."

McGarrigle said he talked to the investigators and again felt uncomfortable by the process. In early March, he obtained a lawyer, Dan Gilleon. On March 21, Wallis reached out to Gilleon asking to speak with McGarrigle again, and Gilleon responded in early April that he intended to commence litigation and any further contact with McGarrigle would come in the form of his deposition.

On April 19, Wallis sent a brief email to Gilleon that the investigation had concluded.

"Based on the information we have obtained, we have been unable to corroborate Mr. McGarrigle's allegations," the email said. "Based on your message to us, we understand that your position is that neither Daniel McGarrigle nor his brother Ryan will speak to us outside of the litigation context to respond to our additional questions. If this changes, please let us know and we will reopen our investigation at that time."

McGarrigle showed The Times a similar statement attributed to HBO, producers Ingram and Warren, and Buckingham Television.

The lawsuit was filed just 10 days before the GLAAD Media Awards gala in New York City, where "We're Here" is vying for best reality program. The show has been nominated for the same GLAAD award twice before, and it won in 2021.

Two days after the GLAAD awards, Shangela is scheduled to receive the Changemaker Award at the GLSEN Respect Awards in New York City. The organization, which works toward protecting LGBTQ+ students from being bullied, has as its event co-chairs Chasten Buttigieg, husband of Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, and Billy Porter.

On May 31, "We're Here" is scheduled to be one of six shows included in the Television Academy's 16th Television Academy Honors, which highlight programming that spark positive social change.

GLAAD, GLSEN and the TV academy did not respond to The Times' request for comment Thursday.

McGarrigle said the culture war being waged against LGBTQ+ people made coming forward difficult. He worried his accusations will cast a shadow over "We're Here" as well as over the beloved reality competition series "RuPaul's Drag Race," which featured Shangela in three seasons. He expressed deep concerns that political and social conservatives will weaponize the allegations and use them to perpetuate the notion that drag queens — and LGBTQ+ people in general — are sexually perverse and dangerous to children.

For Warren, an entertainment lawyer whose client list has included Leonardo DiCaprio, Charlize Theron and Martin Scorsese, the foray into television as an executive producer and co-creator of "We're Here" stands as extension of the important work he accomplished as co-chair of GLAAD. In a 2021 article in Gay City News, Warren and Ingram, who are a couple, said the show's title was a tribute to LGBTQ+ and AIDS activists including Act Up and Queer Nation — and a nod the chant, "We're here, we're queer, get used to it!"

"It gives us enormous pride that we're able to honor those who came up with that slogan by putting it onto a series that showcases exactly what everyone's been fighting for — visibility and respect," Warren told the gay newspaper, before adding what he ultimately wants for queer people: to "live their lives as honestly, as genuinely, as openly as possible."

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R.M.N. 1:00 4:00 7:10

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 1:20 4:10 7:10
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 1:30 4:20 7:00
CARMEN R 1:00 4:00 7:10
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 4:20 PM
WILD LIFE PG-13 4:30 PM
JOYLAND 1:10 7:00
SHOWING UP R 4:10 PM
ANXIOUS NATION 1:00 7:30
PLAN 75 1:20 7:20

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:10
THOSE WHO REMAINED 1:30 7:30
CARMEN R 4:00 PM
CHEVALIER PG-13 4:30 PM
OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN 4:10 PM
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 1:10 7:20
R.M.N. 1:00 7:00

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30 9:50
LOVE AGAIN PG-13 1:10 4:00 7:00 10:00
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 7:20 PM
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:10 10:10
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GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30 10:00
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 4:40 PM
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 4:00 10:15
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:55 6:45
CARMEN R 1:20 7:10
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R 4:30 10:00
JOYLAND 1:00 7:20
SHOWING UP R 1:30 7:20
DE HUMANI CORPORIS FABRICA 4:20 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30
JOHNNY & CLYDE 4:35 PM
LAND OF GOLD 1:20 4:20 7:10
ONE RANGER R 1:30 4:30 7:20
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 4:00 PM
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 1:10 7:00
BEAU IS AFRAID R 12:50 7:00
SHORT FILM PROGRAM NR STADIUM SEATING; 4:00 6:10 8:05 10:00

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 3 PG-13 12:50 4:10 7:30 9:55
LOVE AGAIN PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:10 10:10
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? PG-13 7:00 PM
ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET. PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:20 10:15
POLITE SOCIETY PG-13 1:10 10:00
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R 4:00 PM
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

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Royal prequel rules

['Charlotte,' from E1]
performed 21st century pop hits at 19th century balls. It was great fun watching society's ladies and gentlemen follow prudish etiquette while contending with the show's contemporary ideas around love, free will and shameless hookups.

The prequel, also from showrunner Shonda Rhimes, expands upon the charm of Season 1 of "Bridgerton," and makes up for the *meh* of Season 2, with a strong cast, fresh storyline and, most importantly, a new complexity and depth. True sacrifice and struggle are at the center of Charlotte's love story and her ascent to power in a series that still honors the delights of frivolity. The queen's hair, and the scandal, reach new heights in the prequel.

Golda Rosheuvel reprises her role as Queen Charlotte, the mature, matchmaking-obsessed monarch who is desperately trying to marry off her adult children so they'll produce an heir to the throne. Lady Danbury (Adjoa Andoh) and Lady Violet Bridgerton (Ruth Gemmell) also factor greatly into this story. And no, Simon (Regé-Jean Page) does not make an appearance here.

The prequel moves between two timelines, and the talented India Ria Amarteifio plays a younger version of the queen, who is just 17 and a German princess when she's paired with a young King George III (Corey Mylchreest). It's a match made for political purposes, yet in this volume of the "Bridgerton" saga, there are qualms about a mixed-race marriage. But the union is vital to Britain's survival, so they proceed with "The Great Experiment" (in other words, a merging of races). Many in the court are displeased with the betrothal, and practically hold their noses as they watch the couple walk down the aisle. The parallels to Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, are undeniable.

Love blossoms between the couple, but he has a secret, which isn't that hard to figure out given the actual history of George III, who was known as the mad king. The young Agatha Danbury (Arsema Thomas) is an early confidant of Charlotte's, and her story is rich unto itself, from her arranged marriage to a man easily three times her age to becoming a power broker of the ton, as British high society was called. She is instrumental in breaking down color barriers, and even though she has no love for her aged spouse, her bold actions toward integration afford him a moment in the series that's a profound comment on the insidiousness of racism among the "cultured" class.

Losing oneself in the fantasy of "Bridgerton" formerly meant that the show didn't really have to go into any great depth to explain how a Black woman ascended to the throne, or how the color of one's skin was utterly overlooked in an otherwise close-minded, tradition-bound society. But in the prequel, the question of how that fanciful picture came to be is answered, and the reveal is more intriguing than the great unveiling of Lady Whistledown's true identity in Season 1. And the finale of "Queen Charlotte" is truly emotional — surprising for a franchise that seemed to promise from the beginning that it would never take us too deep.

Lighthearted romance and romps in the gilded bed still play starring roles, and the prequel offers plenty of splendid scenery — including robin-egg-blue carriages, velvety red curtains and exquisite gowns of all shades. There are also a bounty of strikingly beautiful young folks who populate the scenery. And there is finally a gay love affair in the "Bridgerton" franchise, perhaps in response to criticisms that the series lacked a same-sex relationship, but the subplot does not feel engineered or obligatory. It naturally dovetails with all the other affairs of the heart that make "Queen Charlotte" a royal success.

'Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story'

Where: Netflix
When: Anytime
Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17 with advisories for smoking, nudity and sex)

LIAM DANIEL Netflix

INDIA AMARTEIFIO shows how the titular royal ascended to the throne in "Queen Charlotte."

BOOK REVIEW

A memory illustrates the process of forgetting

In this visual memoir, a friendship's abrupt end is evoked in acts of disappearance.

BY NOAH BERLATSKY

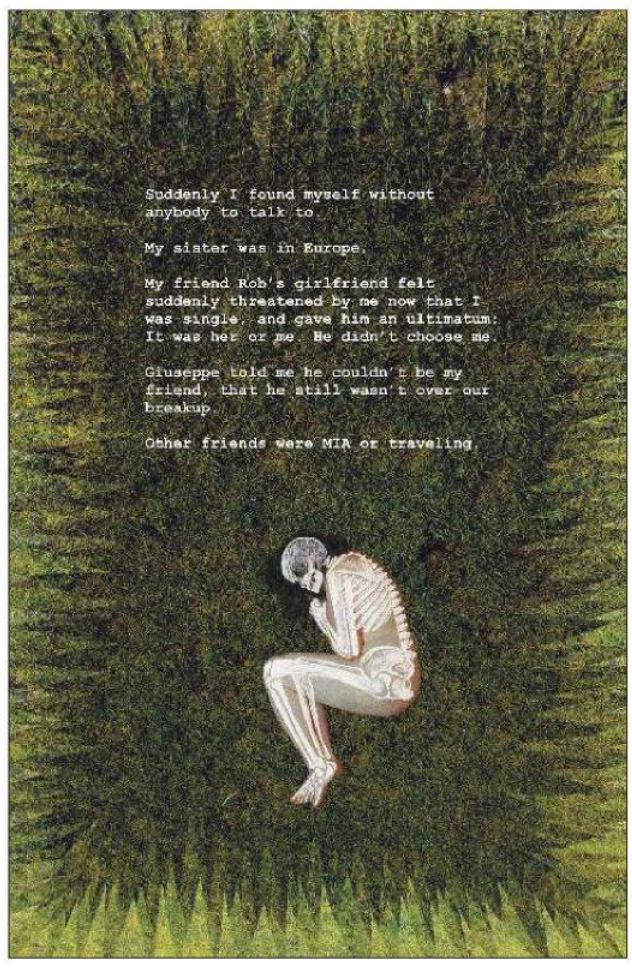
Memoirs usually focus on what the writer remembers. MariNaomi's "I Thought You Loved Me" is instead about what the creator has forgotten or didn't know in the first place. The book uses a barrage of techniques — scrapbook, comics, collage, reprinted letters, text — to fill the page and fill in the past. You might think the array of forms would give you a more kaleidoscopic view of the author's history, relationships and life. But instead, the different modes tend to cancel one another out or interfere with one another, leaving the reader only more aware of gaps and erasures.

MariNaomi, a comics artist and visual artist, often works in memoir, most notably in "I Thought YOU Hated ME" (2016), which explores difficult female friendships and is a kind of companion volume to their latest.

"I Thought You Loved Me" is about Mari's relationship with a woman named Jodie. The two met in high school in Northern California and remained very close through their early 20s. Jodie was the first girl Mari kissed, leading Mari to realize they were bisexual. "We were schoolmates, then friends, then best friends, then nothing," Mari writes in white text against an image of a clouded, misty sky. That nothing is both the theme and central mystery of this odd, melancholy book.

The vague cloud imagery is deliberate. Out of the blue, Jodie phoned Mari and said she didn't want to be friends anymore. That was the end. But the end sprawls backward as a kind of erasure; Mari finds in trying to write the book that the relationship has faded from memory. The story opens with an effort to write the book; on one page you see a white square superimposed on a field of grass. Within the white square, or panel, Mari's hand is drawn poised over an open book. The page within the page is blank. "Nothing," the caption reads. Half on the grass and half on the square, a vaguely face-like outline floats, filled with flowers. It has no features.

This could be Mari's head, or it could be Jodie's. Because the book employs so many different art styles, its protagonists aren't represented in any consistent way. Sometimes they appear as these flower-outline blobs, sometimes as very simplified cartoon sketches. They are also both represented by text written by Mari or reproduced from letters and journals.

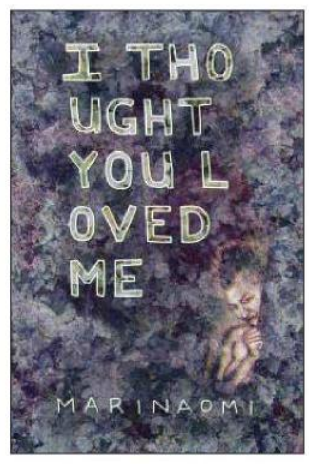

Suddenly I found myself without anybody to talk to.
My sister was in Europe.
My friend Rob's girlfriend felt suddenly threatened by me now that I was single, and gave him an ultimatum: It was her or me. He didn't choose me.
Giuseppe told me he couldn't be my friend, that he still wasn't over our breakup.
Other friends were MIA or traveling.

Fieldmouse Press

IMAGES elicit the haunting disappearance of memories in MariNaomi's "I Thought You Loved Me."

GEOFF CORDNER

ARTIST MariNaomi often turns to memoir.



Fieldmouse Press

I Thought You Loved Me

By MariNaomi

Fieldmouse Press: 320 pages, $30

The book also includes more realistic self-portraits, so that readers eventually get a somewhat stable sense of Mari's physical appearance. But Jodie is never shown so clearly. In fact she is deliberately obscured. There is, for example, a 2000 photograph of Mari, Jodie and a pivotal boyfriend, whose name is always scribbled out in red. Mari smiles cheerfully, the boyfriend wears a mask and Jodie's face is covered with a collage of red flowers.

Mari has no stable image of Jodie to hold on to, but there are calendar notes, journal entries and letters helping to fill in the relationship. The two date some of the same people; they support each other through abusive relationships. Jodie's experiences as a sex worker partly inspire Mari's first novel. And then — nothing. Ten years later, Mari learns why.

The revelation of betrayal, and the ensuing efforts at reconciliation, bring some clarity, but less than you might think. There's an uncharacteristic text message that turns out to have been written by Jodie's abusive boyfriend — but the reader never learns much about that relationship or its effects on Jodie. The eventual explanations for Jodie's actions don't completely coalesce either. Mari remembers more and understands more, but significant elements of the narrative remain obscure.

Among those unanswered questions is why exactly Jodie and Mari were friends in the first place. Jodie "was there for me when no one else was," Mari writes; Jodie made them feel "special." These explanations are fairly generic. Because of memory gaps, and because of the way the book distances the material, we're *told* that the relationship is important, but we don't exactly see it unfold or feel its weight. Jodie is more a cipher than a character, and it's hard to create an emotionally meaningful relationship with a cipher.

The lack of affect is at least somewhat intentional; Jodie isn't really at the center of this book about Jodie. The middle of "I Thought You Loved Me" wanders off to discuss Mari's career in video game design and comics, other friendships and relationships. Is this a story about Jodie or isn't it?

That's in some ways the central question of the memoir. It doesn't quite cohere because Mari's relationship with and memory of Jodie doesn't cohere. Losing a friend is losing a part of the self, not least because you end up wondering if the self you were with that friend ever existed in the first place. Jodie was central to Mari's sense of who they were — and then central to Mari's sense of who they weren't. The relationship tore holes in them. To be true to it, the book has to be one of gaps.

The struggle with memory and self is core to a lot of memoir. Comics memoirs in particular often use visual ambiguity and distance as a way to think about the failure of memory and representation. Art Spiegleman's "Maus" depicts his father, a concentration camp survivor, as a rodent — partly in an effort to find a visual language that can contain uncontainable trauma. Ariel Schrag's wonderful memoir "Likewise," about a breakup in the senior year of high school, uses a range of radically different styles to represent the fragmentation of memory and self. This hybrid medium is uniquely suited to exploring the hybrid nature of identity.

Toward the end of "I Thought You Loved Me," there's an image of Jodie in an airport, watching Mari leave. The drawing is a white page, with vaguely human outlines clustered around. In the middle of them floats a flowery green blob representing Jodie. This is the landscape of memory — hollow shapes, blank space and, here and there, a blot of ambiguous color and ambivalent feeling. MariNaomi worries that our relationships, our feelings, our selves may be nothing but thoughts — a sad collage of solipsism. But Mari insists on loving anyway.

Berlatsky is a freelance writer in Chicago.

MOVIE REVIEW

A deeply felt duet of healing

Two sensitive actors' grief and connection give weight to 'Those Who Remained.'

BY ROBERT ABELE

A solemn male doctor and an impetuous teenage girl find a hopeful bond, and a way back from loss, in the patient, tender Hungarian period drama "Those Who Remained." Gently pitched to hold equal levels of hurt and promise, even as it deftly addresses the optics that are hard to ignore, Barnabás Tóth's richly acted film exudes a faith in human connection as relevant today as such relationships needed to be in the years after World War II for survivors of unimaginable trauma.

Aldó, played by Károly Hajduk, is a wiry, disheveled figure with benevolent eyes and a haunted air, whose entire life is his OB-GYN practice since losing his family in the camps. When he meets angrily self-possessed 16-year-old patient Klára (Abigél Szoke), she's coming out of a delayed puberty, still writing letters to parents whose absence she can explain away, and railing against life under her discipline-intensive, exasperated great-aunt Olgi (Mari Nagy).

But it's already a sign of the sensitive hands we're in — from the actors, the director and the editor — that when these generation-apart opposites lock eyes in the sterile atmosphere of an examination room, we know what's passing between them isn't some illicit spark, but the recognition of what binds them: presenting a brave front to an unjust world. Underneath her mask of old-soul scorn and his hollowed-out professionalism, they feel left behind, without a clear path forward.

That Aldó and Klára can talk to each other about such things while showing a respectful attitude toward their individual emotional architecture — his paternally compassionate touch, her request for comforting hugs — suggests an open door to healing neither wants to shut, and persuades Olgi to accept a co-guardianship with this cheerless but kind doctor. Of course, the fostering works in the other direction too: Klára answering Aldó's fatherly ministrations with a style of care and attention that — if not technically spousal — suggests a mature awareness for what has been wrenched from his life. (The scene where she's given access to the photo albums he can't look at anymore is quite moving, like the key to something sacred and unspeakable, as the glassine sheets between each page give off a crinkling fragility.)

'Those Who Remained'

In Hungarian with English subtitles
Not rated
Running time: 1 hour, 27 minutes
Playing: Laemmle Royal, West Los Angeles; Laemmle Town Center, Encino

That being said, there's no getting around what even the least judgmental observer would wonder about, especially at a time when Communism is fomenting a new, appearance-driven severity. So it's a relief to report that Tóth, co-adapting with Klára Muhi a novel by Zsuzsa F. Várkonyi, handles this intermittent tension — both what's interior and unarticulated, and what's externally threatening — with an appreciative subtlety, and without a hint of soapiness. Tóth nods cautiously toward a dignified ambiguity, what can exist in the molecules between vulnerable souls in the process of rebuilding.

The actors bring all the intelligence such heart-rending delicacy requires, too, as cinematographer Gábor Marosi foregrounds their faces in flatly lighted widescreen images evocative of a dimly lighted existence. With deep, melancholy eyes you can imagine inspiring a painter, Hajduk keeps Aldó's sorrow ever-present, even in the hint of a smile; the way his worry for "Sunny" (Klára's nickname) becomes a quiet engine in the film is a low-key master's class. Szoke, meanwhile, is stunning in her first major film role, radiating bold, beyond-her-age smarts and heaving insecurity with flinty, take-charge magnetism — it's light-years from the pathos-driven portrayals of Holocaust-scarred youths we so often get, but no less touching for how energetic it is.

As the narrative progresses, with the political winds chilling the air again, the watchfulness at the core of this true compassion is joined by a broader concern about who else is watching, what they see, and where that empathy-deficient vigilance might lead. In the exquisite, understated duet of healing that is "Those Who Remained," however, it only imbues even more precious integrity on this kindred bond, presented with precision and thoughtfulness as an example of what truly meaningful custody of a human being looks like.

LENKE SZILÁGYI Menemsha Films

KÁROLY Hajduk's doctor becomes a father figure to Abigél Szoke's teen in the Hungarian period drama.

COMICS

SUDOKU

					3	1		
8			5				2	
		2				6	9	
		5			2	3		
	2		1	3	6		7	
			4			2		
	8	3				5		
	6				8			7
		7	9					

Level: Diabolical

	4				
	6	2			
		3			2
1					
			4	3	
				2	5

Level: Moderate

9	1	5	8	6	3	7	2	4
2	4	8	7	5	1	3	9	6
3	7	6	9	4	2	8	5	1
6	2	7	4	9	5	1	3	8
1	5	3	2	7	8	6	4	9
8	9	4	3	1	6	5	7	2
7	8	1	5	2	4	9	6	3
4	6	9	1	3	7	2	8	5
5	3	2	6	8	9	4	1	7

3	4	2	1	6	5
6	5	1	3	4	2
4	2	6	5	3	1
5	1	3	6	2	4
1	3	4	2	5	6
2	6	5	4	1	3

5/5/23

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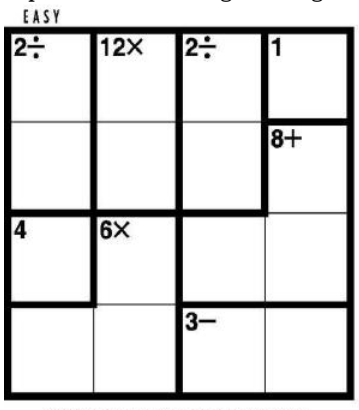
Solutions to Thursday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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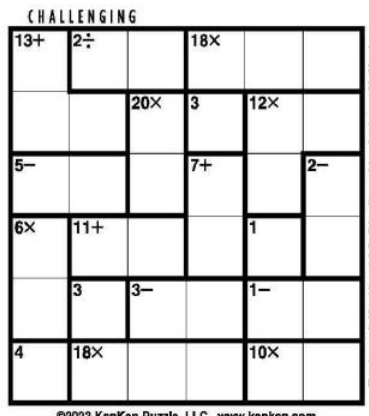
CHALLENGING



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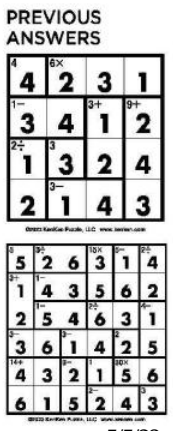
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



5/5/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): If communication is a dance, it's easy to fall out of step today. You'll have more fun free-styling it solo.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Even though you're around familiars, don't get too comfortable. There are those who will start drama because they need the entertainment.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): People don't realize they have inner peace until it gets disturbed. So, the upside of disturbance is that it helps you appreciate life as usual.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Emotions, creativity and time itself will pose a challenge to your authority. Acknowledge their power and ingratiate yourself instead of fighting against them.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): There's little you dread more than having to say no to someone, but if anyone can soften the blow, it's you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have the power over the doors of both your life and your heart. You'll exercise your role as gatekeeper to your own experiences.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): When it comes to predicting how your loved one will behave, your guesses will be spot-on. You'll benefit from this knowledge.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Desire can be a fleeting feeling fueled by attraction and chemistry. Someone wants you, but you'll be more focused on who deserves you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can feel when someone has your best interest at heart. Cherish those with good intent even when they get the move wrong.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Winning doesn't make a person a winner, and losing doesn't make a person a loser. Suspect anyone who condemns another person's character in such a way.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are committed to the growth and well-being of your crew. Today, the best thing you can offer is competition.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You may not know what you're hoping for until you see someone else get it. Envy says, "That is also for me."

Today's birthday (May 5): You'll be astonished by the primal power of your instincts. An achievement will fulfill you on many levels, but none so meaningful as the swell of confidence that comes from knowing what you're capable of. More highlights: majestic settings with fun people, steady income and increased vitality from establishing a practice. Pisces and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers: 11, 13, 50, 2 and 7.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Francie Jones

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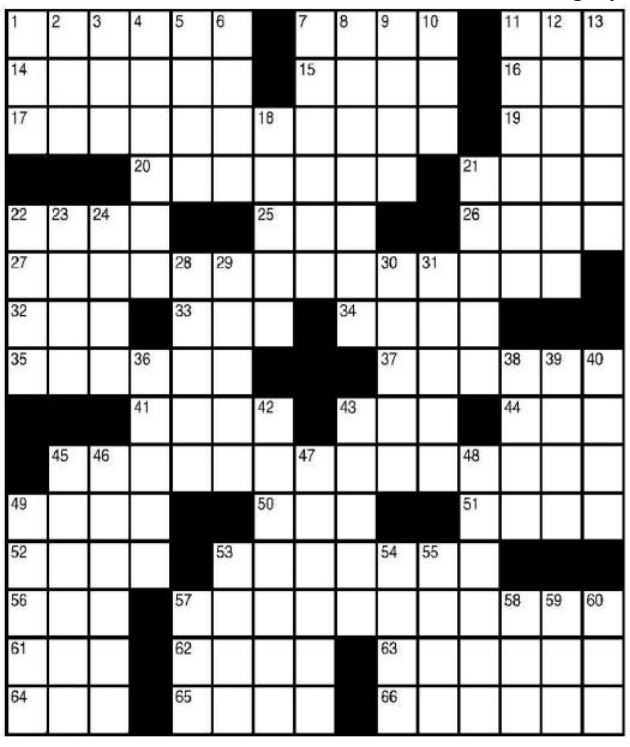

ACROSS
1 Comment accompanying a dismissive hand wave
7 Tucked in
11 Hotel hallway sign
14 Automaker with a six-star logo
15 Serving aid
16 Not talking
17 *Game delay prevented by a chess clock?
19 WNBA player, e.g.
20 Message near a candy bowl
21 Campus group
22 Cartoon supplier of giant anvils
25 Pac-12 school in L.A.
26 Dull repetition
27 *"Has anyone found our pigeon?"
32 Aveeno grain
33 IPO launchers
34 Norse god of war
35 European capital
37 Pet collar attachments
41 Boxers Laila and Muhammad
43 Robot attachment?
44 With it
45 *Completely hooked on swearing by a Roman god?
49 Out of the wind
50 Celery stalk
51 Scrutinized
52 Face off in the ring
53 Single, for one
56 Cantina condiment
57 1981 Top 10 hit for Soft Cell, and a feature of the answers to the starred clues?
61 Versatile blackjack card
62 Carrie-__ Moss of "Jessica Jones"
63 Brought up
64 Scratch, e.g.
65 Space race initials
66 Produces, as an heir

DOWN
1 Sugar suffix
2 Enemy in "Mulan"
3 Agenda placeholder
4 Bikini top option
5 Field of study
6 Mastodon feature
7 Max
8 Prefix with dilator or scope
9 Gutter spot
10 Turn red, say
11 "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" technique
12 Parish figure
13 Put on quite an act
18 Whoville creator21 "Down in __!"
22 AFB truant
23 __ latte
24 Team whose first manager was Casey Stengel
28 Gut bacteria
29 Column style
30 Official order
31 Sassy retort
36 The "B" of RBG
38 Cry to a matey
39 Buckle
40 Went 60 in a 50, say
42 Pushes to the limit
43 "Sounds about right"
45 Llamalike mammal
46 Card holder?
47 Former CEO profiled in the book "DisneyWar"
48 Flight risk?
49 Black tea variety
53 Prohibitions
54 Window box plant
55 Produit de la tête
57 Letter between sigma and upsilon
58 Valuable deposit
59 Confirm the credentials of, say
60 Newsroom VIPs

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	E	W		C	A	N	S	O		M	A	N	G	A
O	P	A		O	R	A	T	E		A	F	O	O	T
B	I	L	L	B	O	A	R	D		D	R	O	N	E
A	C	L	U		U	N	I		O	R	A	N	G	E
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W	E	B	A	D	D	R	E	S	S		E	A	S	Y
A	D	O	R	E		E	S	T	O	S		S	H	E
N	G	O		A	N	D		R	N	C		K	I	N
D	E	M		S	A	U	N	A		A	G	E	N	T
A	D	E	S		S	C	A	L	E	M	O	D	E	L
		R	A	F	T	E	R		A	P	B			
G	L	A	D	L	Y		W	A	G		A	N	F	W
R	O	N	D	O		S	H	E	L	L	G	A	M	E
A	N	G	L	O		P	A	R	E	D		S	I	S
M	I	S	E	R		F	L	O	S	S		A	R	T

5/5/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

Unlucky Louie has raised nine children. He says 80% of parenting involves moving your kid's glass away from the edge of the table.

You would think Louie knew about playing safe as declarer. When he was today's South, West led a heart against 6NT, and in the blink of an eye, Louie captured East's queen and took the A-K of diamonds. Unlucky! East discarded, and Louie had to lose two diamonds.

Careful play succeeds. A safety play is available in diamonds, but Louie needs entries to his hand. On the first heart, he should play dummy's jack: queen, king.

Louie then leads a diamond to dummy's ace, returns a heart to his 10 and leads the eight of diamonds. If West plays low — playing the 10 won't help him — Louie lets the eight ride.

If East won, Louie would be sure of four diamonds and 12 tricks in all. When the eight wins, Louie takes the king, returns a club to his king and concedes a diamond. He has four diamonds, four clubs, three hearts and a spade.

You hold: ♠ 6 5 2 ♥ A J 7 ♦ A K 2 ♣ A Q J 10. You open one club, your partner responds one spade, you jump to 2NT and he bids three hearts. What do you say?

Answer: You showed a balanced hand with about 19 points, so you need not bid 3NT and tell partner the same thing twice. Bid three spades, showing three cards in his first suit. He may continue to four spades, but if his pattern is 5-4-2-2, he can bid 3NT himself to let you choose a game.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 6 5 2
♥ A J 7
♦ A K 2
♣ A Q J 10

WEST
♠ K J 7
♥ 9 6 5 3 2
♦ Q 10 7 3
♣ 5

EAST
♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ Q 8 4
♦ 5
♣ 9 7 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10
♥ K 10
♦ J 9 8 6 4
♣ K 8 3

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	6 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ 3

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Autism may be family trait

Dear Amy: I am a 45-year-old woman who was just diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum.

I never suspected I might be autistic until last year. A friend discovered that she was autistic and sent me some articles about the nonstereotypical ways autism can present in women.

After going through the professional evaluation process and learning more about autism, I am almost certain that my older sister and my 80-year-old mother are on the spectrum too.

Should I tell them about my diagnosis and suspicions about them? If so, how? We are a family that never discusses emotions or meaningful experiences, but I am in almost daily text-message contact with both of them (on trivial things like cooking or sharing dog photos).

I would be uncomfortable even bringing up my diagnosis because it is virtually taboo to discuss our inner lives within the family.

In my teens and early 20s, my mother bluntly told me she didn't want to discuss the hard parts of my life. That set the stage ever since.

However, I think that if my family members are on the autism spectrum, the understanding that would come from learning this information could be life-changing for them.

On the other hand, would it be too upsetting for my aging mother, who despite a lifetime of trauma has always eschewed introspection and therapy, to be confronted with this possibility at her age? Please help!

Nervous & Uncertain

Dear Nervous: It seems to me that if your mother is also on the autism spectrum, this might at least partially explain her discomfort with diving into more emotional matters. Communication is a common challenge for those on the spectrum.

The downside to experiencing an exciting epiphany as an adult is the tendency to press your own experience — and the positive insight that flows from it — onto others with an enthusiasm that can actually deter people from following your lead.

You want your family members to experience the same insight as you've had, but you should be aware that a diagnosis for them also serves your purposes, because it confirms your theories about them.

You should share your insight with your mother and sister the way your friend did with you, using "I statements" and describing your own experience.

Ask them if they are interested in receiving information about the evaluation process, and then leave the rest up to them.

Dear Amy: My parents divorced, more or less amicably, many years ago.

My father remarried a few years ago; his wife is nice enough. As my siblings and I are adults, we don't think of her as our stepmother but as "our dad's wife."

Every year when Mother's Day comes around, I think about sending her a card, and then I decide not to. I think it would make her happy, but I honestly don't want her to make too much out of it. She has adult children and I assume they recognize her on this day, just as I recognize my own mother.

What should I do?

On the Fence

Dear On the Fence: Send her a card. If you can't find one that fits the relationship in a way that feels comfortable to you, you could send a generic card and write a message: "I appreciate the role you have in our family. Happy Mother's Day."

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"Dinner will be ready as soon as we've fed the cat and dogs, the turtle, goldfish, bird, hamsters ..."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

Honoring National Cartoonists Day.
From the Staff of Hank Ketcham Enterprises, Inc.

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

"Yes, yes, I love you, too. Now can I watch my show?"

BLISS By Harry Bliss

"It's unicorn. Let me know what you think."

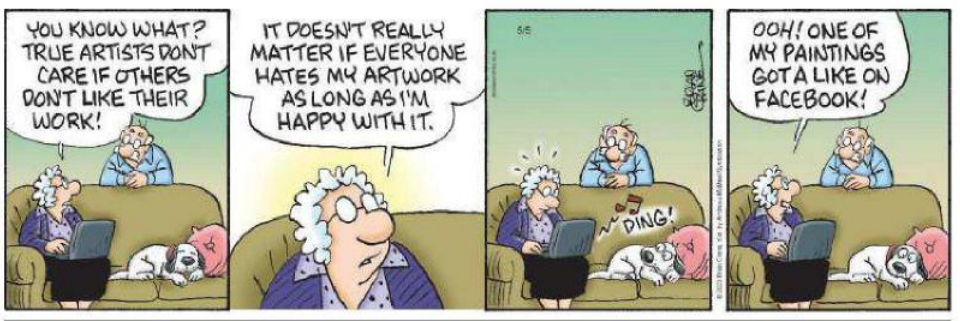
SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

LA CUCARACHA'S
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE HOSTING A CINCO DE MAYO PARTY...
¡5!
4. BE SURE TO INVITE THE NEIGHBORS.
NOISE COMPLAINT? NO OFFENSE, OFFICERS, BUT YOU'RE NOT OUR NEIGHBORS.

PICKLES By Brian Crane


YOU KNOW WHAT? TRUE ARTISTS DON'T CARE IF OTHERS DON'T LIKE THEIR WORK!
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF EVERYONE HATES MY ARTWORK AS LONG AS I'M HAPPY WITH IT.
DING!
OOH! ONE OF MY PAINTINGS GOT A LIKE ON FACEBOOK!

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

WHAT WERE YOU NUMB-SKULLS THINKING? DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE HARBORING AN ESCAPED FUGITIVE RIGHT NOW?
WHAT?!
NO WAY! HE WAS ONLY GROUNDED!
TELL THAT TO THE FBI AGENTS OUT THERE.
FBI? FOR ME? WHAT DO THEY CARE ABOUT SOME KID?
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.
I'VE BEEN ON THE WATCHLIST SINCE I WAS SIX.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

DAD, THERE ARE ELEVEN PICKLES IN THIS JAR.
IF I EAT SEVEN OF THEM, HOW MANY WILL BE LEFT FOR YOU?
FOUR.
HEH. HEH. HEH.
NO FAIR TRICKING DAD INTO DOING YOUR MATH PROBLEMS!

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

THE GUYS WATCH "THE MAURY SHOW."
MY HUSBAND CHEATED WITH OUR 24-YEAR-OLD BABYSITTER.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO, MAURY! IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!
HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?
ABOUT SIX MONTHS.
YOU'VE BEEN HAVING AN ACCIDENT FOR SIX MONTHS?
YOU'RE RIGHT— THIS NUMBS MY MIND BETTER THAN MEDITATION EVER DID.

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

IT'S ABOUT MY BACKYARD GRILL HITTING THAT ASTEROID AND CHANGING ITS COURSE.
APPARENTLY I'M BEING CHARGED WITH CAUSING THE EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH!
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan

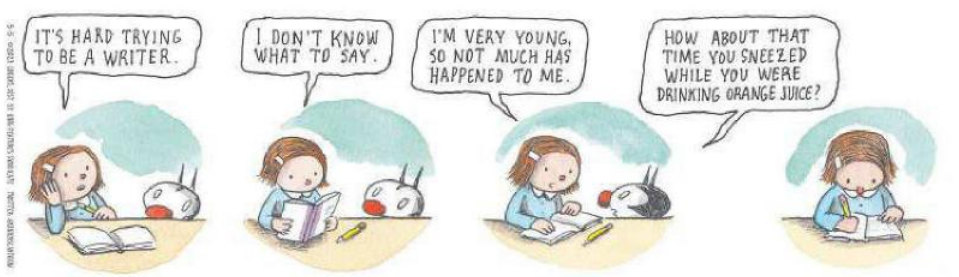
JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

CAPTAIN RUIZ! THE FIREMEN HAVE STOLEN OUR ICE CREAM TRUCK CONCEPT!
THEY DIDN'T "STEAL" IT.
BATTALION CHIEF GLOVER CONTACTED ME AND I TOLD HIM HOW TO ROLL OUT THEIR PROGRAM.
THEY'VE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB! THE KIDS ARE LINING UP FOR THEIR ICE CREAM!
SAM! THIS IS WAR!
POLICE

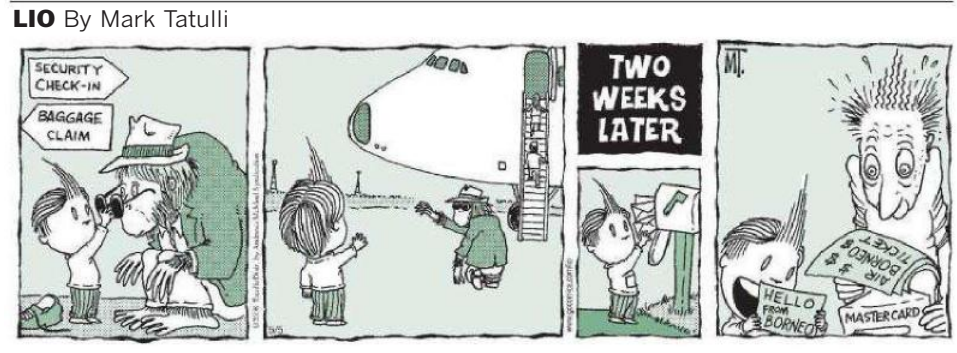
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis

LOOK AT THIS CRAZY STORY ON TWITTER.
YOU KNOW, RAT, BEFORE YOU START SPREADING STUFF YOU SEE ON TWITTER YOU SHOULD PROBABLY DO A LITTLE INVESTIGATION OF YOUR OWN TO DETERMINE IF IT'S TRUE.
OKAY.
THIS SNARKY COMMENT SAYS YES.
REMEMBER JOURNALISM?
NOT RINGING A BELL.

MACANUDO By Liniers


IT'S HARD TRYING TO BE A WRITER.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
I'M VERY YOUNG, SO NOT MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO ME.
HOW ABOUT THAT TIME YOU SNEEZED WHILE YOU WERE DRINKING ORANGE JUICE?

LIO By Mark Tatulli



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall

I'M OFF TO MEET WITH J.J. BLINGMAN! I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY EVIDENCE OF A CINCO DE MAYO PARTY!
YOU WON'T, BOSS... I PROMISE
LUCKILY, THE BOSS ONLY SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THE EVIDENCE!
RIGHT! WE'LL CLEAN UP BEFORE HE GETS BACK!
OLÉ!
Cinco de MAYO
5-5

ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

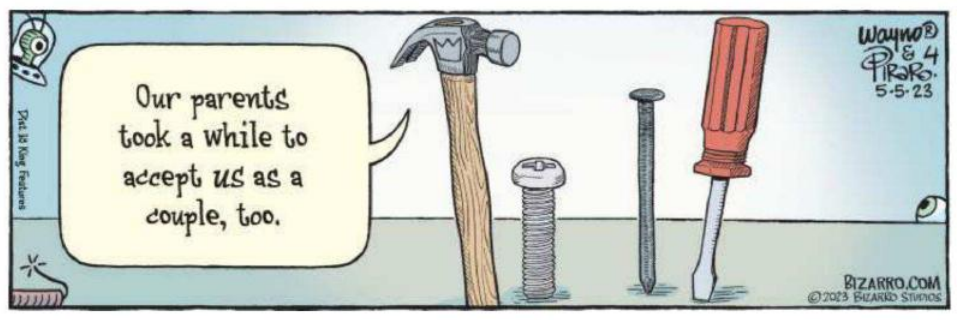
SARA, I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY.
FOR...?
BEING INSENSITIVE? FORGETTING AN EVENT? SAYING SOMETHING DUMB? FIBBING? NOT NOTICING NEW SHOES?
APOLOGY ACCEPTED.
FOR WHICH ONE??

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

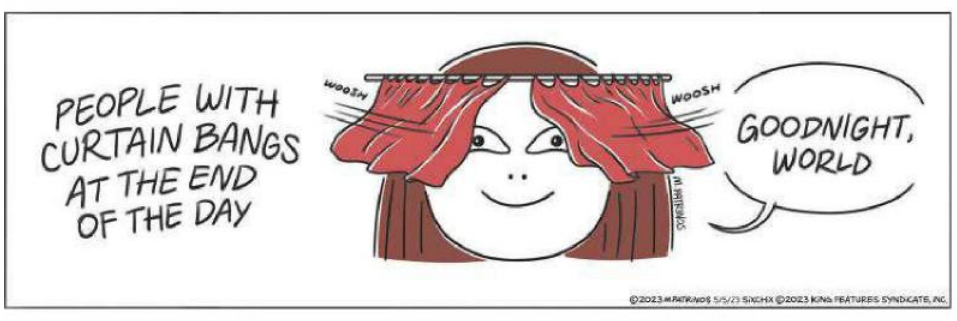
DOES YOUR BUTTER PECAN ICE CREAM HAVE ACTUAL PECANS IN IT? -BECAUSE THEY GET CAUGHT IN MY TEETH
-AND DO YOU KNOW THE MILK FAT CONTENT? IS IT MORE OR LESS THAN CHOCOLATE?
-AND IF THERE'S A BUTTER PECAN FROZEN YOGURT OPTION, CAN YOU TELL ME THE GRAMS OF SUGAR?
YOU KNOW-WE COULD JUST GRAB AN APPLE FROM THE MARKET ON THE CORNER
WHAT'S DECADENT ABOUT THAT?

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



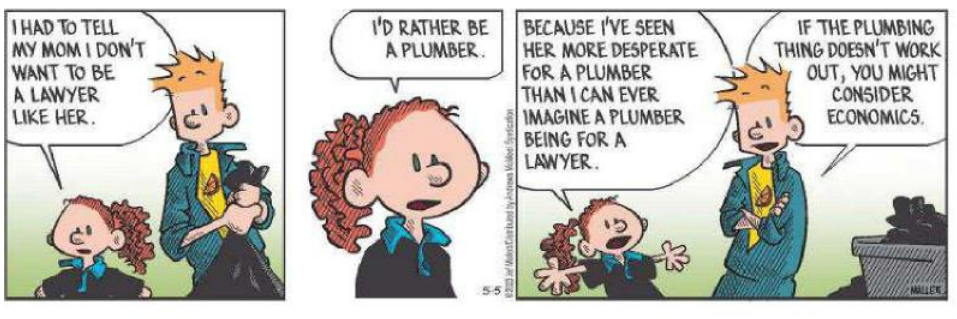
SIX CHIX By Maritsa Patrinos


PEOPLE WITH CURTAIN BANGS AT THE END OF THE DAY
WOOSH
WOOSH
GOODNIGHT, WORLD
©2023 M PATRINOS 5/5/23 SIXCHIX ©2023 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

BYE, DARLENE!
THAT WAS A STRANGE EXPERIENCE
PLEASE TELL ME THERE ARE NO MORE GIRLS FROM YOUR PAST WHO ARE GOING TO DROP BY TODAY!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
I'LL GET IT!
NO!!

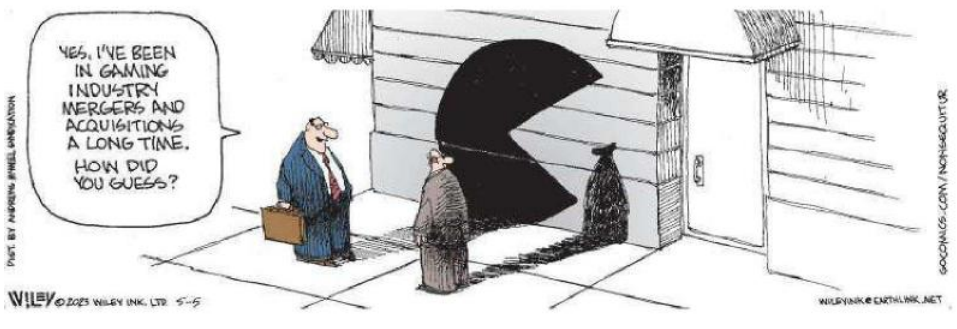
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


I HAD TO TELL MY MOM I DON'T WANT TO BE A LAWYER LIKE HER.
I'D RATHER BE A PLUMBER.
BECAUSE I'VE SEEN HER MORE DESPERATE FOR A PLUMBER THAN I CAN EVER IMAGINE A PLUMBER BEING FOR A LAWYER.
IF THE PLUMBING THING DOESN'T WORK OUT, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER ECONOMICS.

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

SHELTER STORIES
"MATTY"
IT'S "FERRET FRIDAY" AT THE SHELTER!
YEH... I JUST MADE THAT UP. I'M ONLY TRYING MY BEST TO GET YOU EXCITED TO ADOPT A CUTE FERRET TODAY
OR ON "FERRET SATURDAY"!
mutts.com
5-5

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


YES, I'VE BEEN IN GAMING INDUSTRY MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS A LONG TIME. HOW DID YOU GUESS?
WILEY ©2023 WILEY INK, LTD. 5-5
GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR
WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

"FRIENDLY" AND "UNFRIENDLY" WITNESSES
WHO WERE THE HOLLYWOOD TEN?
GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT
"Are you now or have you ever been a membe
of the Communist Par

Photographs by DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

ARTIFACTS help tell the story of "Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare" in expanded exhibit at the Skirball.

COSTUME worn by Lauren Bacall, to right of outfit in photo, in 1953's "How to Marry a Millionaire."

Timely exhibit on blacklist

[**Skirball,** from E1]

Thurston's grandparents were then "graylisted — guilty by association," she says.

When they were no longer able to get work, Thurston's grandparents sold their beloved Benedict Canyon home, which they'd built more than a decade earlier, and headed north, where they lived in a beach shack in the Ojai area.

Her grandfather fished and traded his haul for vegetables and other goods. He and Thurston's grandmother wrote magazine articles under fake names. Thurston's mother was 2 at the time.

"The exhibition, it hit a lot harder, knowing what my grandparents went through," Thurston says.

But "Hollywood Red Scare" is personal for all of us, she adds. In this era of political division, and considering the rollbacks of civil liberties in this country, the exhibition has urgent contemporary context.

"This is not the first time we as a country have dealt with intense factionalization, intense division. This is a theme throughout our history, of having a hard time finding a way to forge across difference ideologically," Thurston says.

"From the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community to questions about cancel culture to questions of security — like what is a reasonable interference into one's personal life from the government — none of this is new.

"I think the blacklist is an interesting template to explore this through."

FOR COORDINATING curator Cate Thurston, looking at items in exhibit, the blacklist is personal — her grandparents were "graylisted — guilty by association."

Museum exhibitions are generally planned several years ahead of time. "Hollywood Red Scare" was not.

Skirball Director Sheri Bernstein and Deputy Director Michele Urton saw the exhibit at Baltimore's Jewish Museum of Maryland in mid-2022 and instantly decided that it had to travel to Los Angeles, the center of the film industry. It was planned — and significantly expanded — in about 10 months.

Asking questions is central to Jewish tradition, Thurston says, and the Skirball appreciated the way the exhibition had been framed, using the blacklist as a sort of case study to inquire about civil rights and liberty today. But the Skirball wanted a hyper-local exhibition with a larger gallery footprint that was, specifically, more robust in terms of the number of artifacts on view.

"We wanted it to really speak to 'this is a Los Angeles story,' " Thurston says.

"Hollywood Red Scare" already included items such as letters that Hollywood Ten members Dalton Trumbo and Alvah Bessie had sent to their families while incarcerated, as well as newspaper and magazine articles about the blacklist from the time.

Thurston and the exhibition's original curator, Ellie Gettinger, hunted down new objects from institutions and individuals around the U.S. for the expanded L.A. show. Much of the text is original to the show, but about 100 of the 125 artifacts on view are unique to L.A.

The Skirball presentation includes two new sections. One, "Hollywood and Anti-Fascism," explores the lives of the Hollywood Ten before World War II.

"Many of them were involved in work that was very patriotic that was part of the war effort," Thurston says, "and just two years later, these actions would be held against them. So we wanted to paint a picture of who they were before the hearings."

The other new section, "Talented and Targeted," explores antisemitism and racism at the time, specifically "how the experience of being blacklisted was not monolithic, especially for people who experienced structural inequality already," Thurston says.

About a third of the new objects on view came from the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, which has deep blacklist holdings; about a third came from the archives of the Writers Guild of America West; and a third came from private lenders.

Thurston's team also worked with L.A.'s Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and the Margaret Herrick Library at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to dig up high-resolution scans of movie posters from the 1940s and '50s.

They're now mounted on a wall in the exhibition and are interactive. Visitors can flip open the poster, as if it were the cover of a book, and inside read the FBI's notes, from the late '40s through the '50s, analyzing the films for communist themes.

Trumbo's daughter Mitzi Trumbo lent some of the objects, including two typewriter ribbon tins her father used when he was incarcerated to hold his personal belongings. Inside are letters from his children, stamps, a calendar, matches, the end of a cigar holder, a tiny children's Bible.

"What I found so striking about those artifacts," Thurston says, "was it conveyed the weight of what they had suffered. It was a way for us to explore his incarceration experience. And it also had so much of Dalton Trumbo's personality and his sense of humor."

There are poems from Bessie on view; there's a pamphlet published by the Committee for the Hollywood Ten, called "For Justice and Peace by the Wives of the Hollywood Ten"; there's a script, with accompanying audio, for a radio spot supporting the Hollywood Ten created by the Committee for the First Amendment, which was made up of Hollywood A-listers such as Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall and John Huston.

Two series at the museum will spotlight movies by and about blacklisted filmmakers.

"Behind the Blacklist," organized with movie historian Alan K. Rode, is a double-feature series and will include conversations with current Hollywood creatives as well as family members of blacklisted filmmakers.

The museum's summer Outdoor Movies at the Skirball series, held in its courtyard, will this year feature pictures by blacklisted filmmakers and others who testified before HUAC.

Six of the Hollywood Ten were Jewish, Thurston points out, and several members of HUAC were in the Ku Klux Klan. Antisemitism, she says, was a theme throughout the Hollywood blacklist, and the Skirball hopes that "Hollywood Red Scare" spurs reflection on antisemitism in the U.S. — in the past and present.

"We felt it was really important for our mission and our audience and our values," she says.

An exhibition addressing freedom of speech — or lack thereof — walks a tricky line, Thurston says. But that's one aspect that makes "Hollywood Red Scare" so interesting.

"One of the things I'm excited about, and also cautious about, in talking about the exhibition is: I don't ever want to tell anyone how to think," she says. "I want to leave enough nuggets for folks to make opinions about the past and present for themselves. And I think this exhibition does a really good job of that."

'Blacklist: The Hollywood Red Scare'

Where: Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles
When: Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Through Sept. 3
Cost: Adult general admission for nonmembers, $18
Info: *skirball.org*

Rocky trails, stunning views

[**Peak,** from E1]

Pietro makes it to that rocky summit, tired but triumphant, and breaks into an exuberant dance. It's as if he's finally mastered his environs, and perhaps even found a way to honor the father whose memory at once haunts and sustains him.

Memory looms large in "The Eight Mountains," nearly as large as the craggy peaks that fill the frame and offer a misleading explanation of the movie's title (which it shares with its source material, a 2016 novel by Paolo Cognetti). The story begins in the summer of 1984, when 11-year-old Pietro and his parents, who live in Turin, spend the summer in a small Alpine village. It's here that Pietro meets Bruno, a boy roughly the same age, who swiftly becomes his friend and guide. The region, with its scenic lakes and jaw-dropping vistas, is a boundless sun-drenched playground. And the writer-directors Felix van Groeningen and Charlotte Vandermeersch joyously capture the boys' rambunctious, rough-and-tumble innocence, the pure happiness we see coursing through their faces and bodies as they run, wrestle, yell and explore.

It's perfect, and it can't last. Before long we're with Bruno, Pietro and Giovanni on that prematurely aborted mountain climb — a visually stunning scene that drives home the most obvious difference between Bruno, the country boy entirely at ease outdoors, and Pietro, the city kid gasping for air. The scene also hints at a fast-forming bond between Giovanni and Bruno, a development that leaves Pietro on the outside looking in. He's never really connected with his father, an unhappy engineer whose attitude shifts with his altitude; distant and distracted at sea level, he comes to life in these snowy heights. That erratic temperament is a turn-off for Pietro, who becomes ever more estranged from his father as a teenager (played, briefly, by Andrea Palma) and eventually an adult. By the time Giovanni dies suddenly, he and Pietro haven't spoken or seen each other in years.

It's been a long time since Pietro has seen Bruno too; like so many childhood friendships, theirs faded as the two grew up and went their separate ways. But Giovanni's death brings about a reunion, and it's remarkable, given how much both men have changed (they both sport beards, for one), how easily they can pick up where they left off, with a simple "ciao, Pietro"/"ciao, Bruno." Before long they're back together in those mountains, not playing this time but working to build a cabin on a slope — Bruno is a skilled carpenter — and fulfill one of Giovanni's unrealized dreams. The house is soon finished, and over time it becomes a place for them to reunite every summer, a high-altitude oasis amid lives often adrift in confusion and uncertainty.

Sideshow and Janus Films

BRUNO (Alessandro Borghi), left, falls in love with Lara (Elisabetta Mazzullo), and reunites with his childhood friend Pietro, who met a woman in Nepal.

'The Eight Mountains'

In Italian with English subtitles
Not rated
Running time: 2 hours, 27 minutes
Playing: Landmark's Nuart Theatre, West Los Angeles

In tracking a decades-long relationship, forged in a vaguely Edenic wilderness to which it keeps returning, "The Eight Mountains" at times inescapably evokes "Brokeback Mountain," even if Pietro and Bruno's love story is, as far as we can tell, a platonic one. Certainly the two lead actors are beautiful enough to suggest intriguing if untapped possibilities; Marinelli's movie-star magnetism burns no less brightly than it did in "Martin Eden," and Borghi is a master of the quietly suggestive smolder. As it is, both characters fall in love with women: Bruno with a fellow mountain native, Lara (Elisabetta Mazzullo), and Pietro with a teacher, Asmi (Surakshya Panta), whom he meets in, of all places, Nepal. (No matter how far he travels, mountains prove inescapable.)

But for both men, the pursuit of romantic love proves secondary to the challenge of self-determination. That can mean fulfilling a long-held dream, as Bruno does when he becomes a rural farmer and cheesemaker like his ancestors; it can also mean figuring out what that dream even is, as Pietro tries to do, becoming a writer but mostly a wanderer. We see their differences even in how they present themselves: Pietro stands out with his bright-colored clothes and rotating beanies and bandannas, while Bruno tends to wear light earth tones, as if he were trying to vanish into the mountain scenery. But as their lives move forward — as Pietro struggles to figure himself out and as Bruno's farm falls on hard times — they become contrasting, complementary studies in unfulfillment, in the difficulty of being either too grounded or not grounded at all.

That might make "The Eight Mountains" sound, on paper, like a movie beholden to too many well-worn dramatic binaries: father vs. son, friend vs. friend, town vs. country, the material vs. the intellectual. Happily, the movie doesn't exist only on paper. It lives in Marinelli's and Borghi's beautifully harmonized performances, in their expressive physicality and intense if sometimes hesitant emotions; in the soft-polished grit and enveloping romanticism of Daniel Norgren's songs; and especially in the heart-stopping grandeur of Ruben Impens' square-framed compositions. Anguished feelings, pleasing music and crystalline visuals have of course long been hallmarks of Van Groeningen's work, not always to productive ends, in movies like "The Broken Circle Breakdown" and "Beautiful Boy." (This is his first filmmaking collaboration with Vandermeersch, an actor making her directing debut; the two are married and based in Belgium.)

But what finally lifts "The Eight Mountains" above those earlier films is a generous, gently unassuming worldview — one that grants everyone their space and their struggles, and that never turns characters into easy symbols or reduces relationships to obvious tensions. In this story, it isn't an act of betrayal or redemption when a man turns out to be a better, more attentive father to a child other than his own; it simply is what it is, a testament to nature's unpredictability, a wound and a balm rolled into one. Indeed, one of the more graceful surprises in a story suffused with loss and regret is the way Giovanni and Bruno's surrogate bond ultimately opens the door, for Pietro, to a deeper kind of reconciliation. It allows him to make peace with a father he barely knew, and with a friend he loves more than he understands.